



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Welcome to Hope

SUNDAYS

8:00 & 10:30AM—Worship
9:15AM—Family Bible Hour
4:00PM—Spanish Worship w/Communion

ADVENT WEDNESDAYS

4:30PM—Advent Worship
5:15PM—Fellowship Dinner
6:30PM—Advent Worship

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“Anchored in Christ, Empowered by the Spirit, Connecting People to Jesus”

We are glad you are taking the time to worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with us this weekend! We pray God’s blessings on your worship and time spent among us at Hope Lutheran Church! We ask you to please take the time to fill in the Friendship pad (be sure to give us your name and address) and feel free to indicate any prayer concerns on the reverse side of the pad. We are a “Family-Friendly Church” and encourage the participation of children in our worship. However, we realize there are times when children can become disruptive to other worshippers, and for that reason there is a cry room located in the back of the church for your use. Children’s worship bags are available in the narthex for your use during the service (see an usher or elder). Please return the bag following the service to the “Worship Bag Tree.” We encourage you to join us for any and all activities at Hope in the week ahead!

IMPORTANT NOTES: *for the sanctity of our worship and the benefit of those around you, please refrain from excessive talking in the narthex and sanctuary, and turn off all cell phones, pagers, etc. Please time entrances and exits during congregational singing to minimize distraction to our worshipping community. Following our worship, please make every effort to leave God’s House just as you found it. Please do not bring coffee, cans of soda or bottled water into the sanctuary for your use before or even during the service. Also, please be sure to remove any “used” tissues from the pews or hymnal racks. Your help in keeping God’s house neat and clean will most certainly be appreciated! Thank you!*

Hope: Anchored in Christ



Please turn off or silence your cell phone and NO food or drinks in the Sanctuary.

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Activities This Week at Hope:

Sunday 12/3	8:00	Worship w/Communion
	9:15	Family Bible Hour (<i>snacks: Goetsch</i>)
	10:30	Worship w/Communion
	11:45	Youth Ministry Team Meeting
	11:45	Rehearsal: Christmas Program
	4:00	Spanish Worship w/Communion
Monday 12/4	6:30	Choir
	7:30	Young Adults @ Starbucks, Plant City
Tuesday 12/5	5:30	Fellowship Ministry Team Meeting
	6:30	Missions & Outreach Ministry Team Meeting
Wednesday 12/6	4:30	Advent Worship
	5:00	Confirmation
	5:15	Fellowship Dinner (<i>host: Christian Growth; menu: Spaghetti w/sides</i>)
	5:30	Bell Choir
	6:30	Advent Worship
Friday 12/8	5:00	Youth Christmas Party
Sunday 12/10	8:00	Worship
	9:15	Family Bible Hour (<i>snacks: Bertsch & McMinn</i>)
	10:30	Worship
	11:45	Human Care Ministry Team Meeting
	11:45	Rehearsal: Christmas Program
	4:00	Spanish Worship w/Communion
	4:00	Elders' Christmas Party

Worship Attendance / Communion:

Wednesday, November 22, 2017
Thanksgiving Worship: 6:30: 69/65

Sunday, November 26, 2017:
Worship: 8:00: 49 10:30: 77
FBH: Adults: 43 Youth: 7 Children: 4
Spanish Worship: 4:00: 20/11

Offerings—General Fund: \$10,969.00

Stewardship Perspective:

1 Corinthians 1:9 “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” The faithfulness of God is our great comfort. He has made promises to us and He will keep them. He is kind and loving toward us and will not break faith with us. This gives us the confidence to step out in faith, to leave fear behind. So when it comes to following the Lord’s commandments for our daily lives: we know His will is best for us because our God is faithful.



First Sunday In Advent

December 3, 2017

AS WE GATHER

Advent means "coming." In this special season of the Church Year, we reflect on the comings of Christ to earth. We think of that coming to a certain place at a certain time in history when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. We know the time and the place of that coming, and we rejoice in the salvation that event brought for us. But that advent is only one of the "comings" we consider in this season. We also anticipate our Lord's coming again in power and glory at the end of earthly time. That coming is just as certain as was His coming in the flesh some two thousand years ago!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION

"Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" Ellen Foncannon

The sanctuary is a place of meditation and preparation for worship. Therefore, as the prelude begins, we cease our conversations and quiet our hearts to converse silently with God.

OPENING HYMN

"The Advent of Our King"

LSB 331

INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: We make our beginning in the name of the true God, the God of all hope, the Father, the † Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen!**

P: As we begin, let us come before the Lord with a true heart and confess our sins to Him.

C: Lord, all too often we have become too focused on the things of this world instead of being alert and focused on the things of your kingdom. Instead of being stirred up and alert about spiritual things of Your kingdom we have given ourselves to the things of this worldly kingdom. We have sinned against You and against one another. We have fallen way short of the mark. Please forgive us. Forgive us for not living our lives empowered and stirred by Your love. Forgive us for not sharing You with others, forgive us for what we have done and that which we have left undone. Please renew us by Your Holy Spirit. By Your Spirit stir us up. Cause us to be alert about the things of Your kingdom! Amen.

P: I have great news for you! As one of the Lord's called and ordained servants I tell you that he loves you. And when you confess your sins to him he is faithful and just to forgive you. May he empower you to live stirred up for the things of his kingdom and by his Spirit may you be renewed staying alert until he returns. In the name of the Father, the † Son and the Holy Spirit

C: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus, Come.



† **LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE** †

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness

C: and illumine Your Church.

(The first candle is lit.)

RESPONSE

"We Light the Advent Candle"

(tune: LSB 343)

**We light the Advent candle And wait for Christ to come.
With hope, we trust the promise That He will bring us home.
Our hope is in our Savior Who wins for us God's favor.
We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, stir up your power and come.

C: Come as our King, Judge and Lord.

P: Out of your mercy wake up within us the threatening dangers of our sin and by your Holy Spirit keep us blameless until you come.

C: Lord, stir us up and keep us alert.

P: This world aches out of brokenness for your return.

C: For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

10:30 SPECIAL MUSIC

"Come, Thou Jesu"



Jubilation Singers



† **SERVICE OF THE WORD** †

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9 (p.623)

("Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down.")

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence— ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (p.952)

(He will sustain you to the end.)

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

LSB 338

**Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Public domain

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37 (p.850)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

C: *(Sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord!**

²⁴"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord, help me to grasp that all the blessings I think I have are really Yours. Help me to grasp that all the blessings our church has does not belong to the church, but to You. Give us healthy giving hearts to use these blessings according to Your purpose. In Your name I pray. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF FRIENDSHIP

As the offerings are received, please sign the register in the pews, whether you are a member of Hope Lutheran or a visitor. The person at the end of the pew should start and then pass it along. Thank you for making worship with us a priority this Lord's Day.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Our tithes are our regular, top priority, proportionate, grateful gifts to the Lord for the work of the gospel. Our offerings are our special gifts for special causes over and above our tithes.

VOLUNTARY

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

Douglas E. Wagner

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord, You have given us the stars as markers of days and seasons, and we thank You for bringing us to the beginning of a new Church Year. Keep us faithful as we move through its observances and celebrations. May we gather often to hear the proclamation of Your Son and receive the gifts You so freely bestow upon us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We do not know the time the Son of Man will come, that knowledge belongs only to You, O Lord. Keep us wakeful, watchful and ever ready for His arrival, so that we along with all Your faithful people may be gathered from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord of all nations, as we await the full coming of Your promised Kingdom, be with all who make, administer and judge our laws. May they use the authority that You have given them wisely and according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, You are our Father, hide not Your face from us. Look with kindness especially upon *Cyrus Mercier, Mark Stefanos, Rose Thomas,*

Libby Voigtmann, Millie Wetz, and all who cry out to You in time of need. According to Your will, give healing to the sick, comfort to those who mourn and perseverance to those who suffer for the sake of Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, even as we await Your coming in glory, You come to us in the here and now in the bread and wine that is the body and blood of Your Son. May all who approach Your table today receive the Sacrament worthily, so that with sins forgiven and faith strengthened Your people lack no gift as they await the revealing of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, who taught us to pray:

C: 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.



+ HOLY COMMUNION +

PREFACE

(tune: LSB 332)

P: May the Lord be with you now.

C: May the Lord be with you, too.

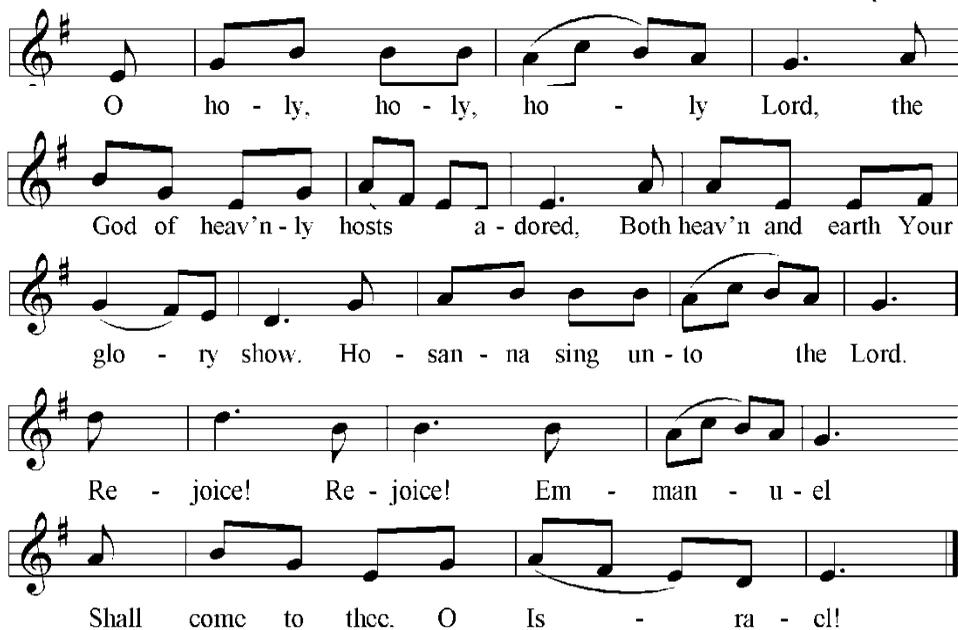
P: Lift your hearts in thanks and praise

C: It is good and right to do.

P: It is truly good...praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

(tune: LSB 357)



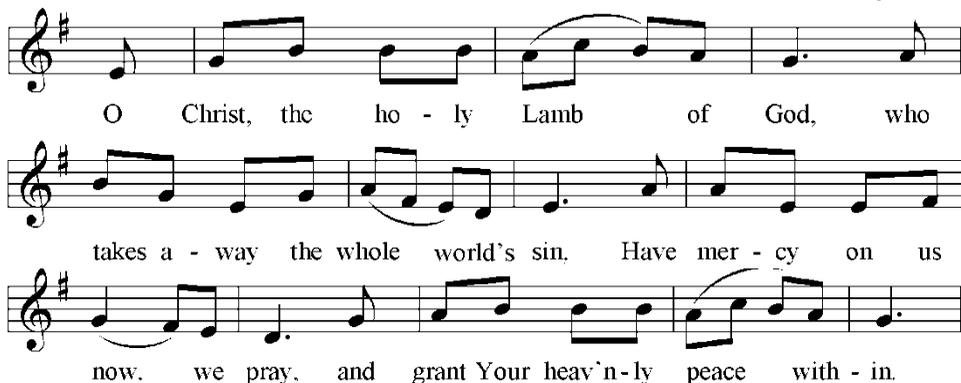
O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, the
God of heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, Both heav'n and earth Your
glo - ry show. Ho - san - na sing un - to the Lord.
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We listen again to the very words spoken by Jesus Christ in the upper room, "take and eat, this is my body... take and drink, this is my blood." We prepare to receive what Jesus has promised to share with us, His very presence. As we eat this bread and drink this wine, Christ nourishes us, forgives us and strengthens us with His presence.

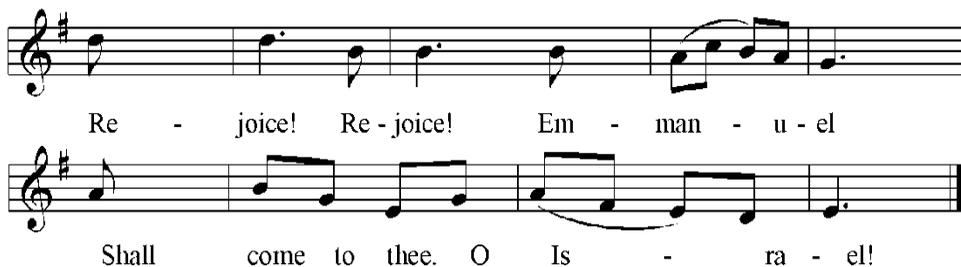
AGNUS DEI

(tune: LSB 357)



O Christ, the ho - ly Lamb of God, who
takes a - way the whole world's sin, Have mer - cy on us
now, we pray, and grant Your heav'n - ly peace with - in.

Continued on next page...



(The congregation may be seated.)

COMMUNION STATEMENT

If you desire to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please remember that the Sacrament of Holy Communion is available to those who: ¹Are baptized AND instructed in the Christian faith; ²Examine themselves in a manner appropriate to adult maturity and recognize their own need for forgiveness; ³Believe that the Crucified and Risen Lord is truly present in, with and under the bread and wine; ⁴Believe that in this sacrament God gives us forgiveness of sins and strengthening of faith; ⁵Accept their place of responsibility in the whole church on earth. If this is your sincere belief, then joyfully share this sacrament with us. If this is not your belief, please remain seated for a time of prayer on the many blessings God has given you. If you have any questions, please see a pastor or an elder. Please remember the words of St. Paul, "For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself." (1 Cor. 11:29) For those with dietary restrictions, a light-colored grape juice is also served in the center of the tray, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Note: During distribution, one of our pastors will be in the back of the church for a time of individual prayer with anyone desiring.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"

LSB 342

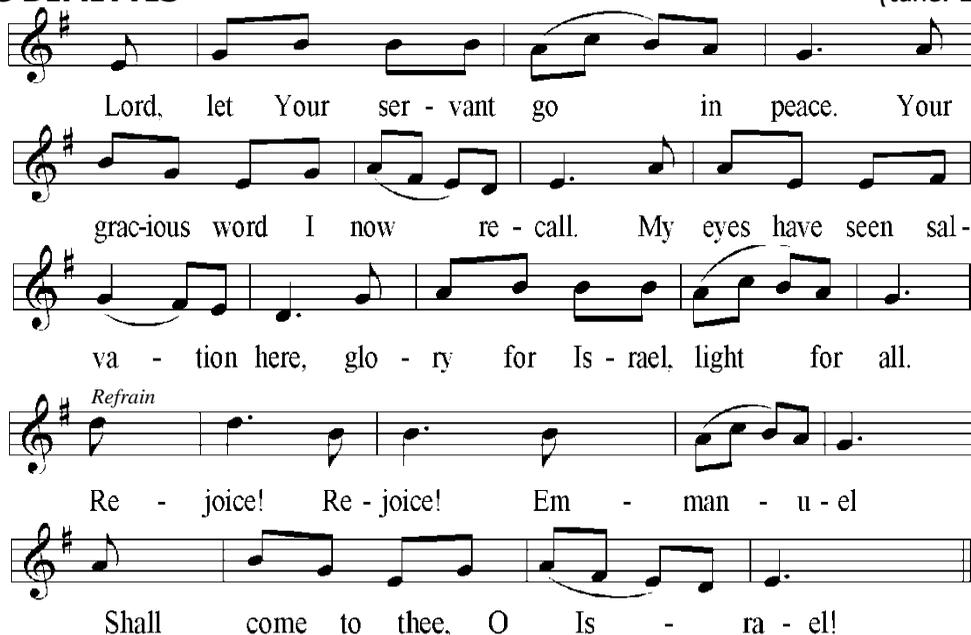
"Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB 349

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

NUNC DIMITTIS

(tune: LSB 357)



Lord, let Your ser - vant go in peace. Your
grac - ious word I now re - call. My eyes have seen sal -
va - tion here, glo - ry for Is - rael, light for all.

Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

8:00 SPECIAL MUSIC

"Come, Thou Jesu"

Jubilation Singers



CLOSING PRAYER

God, reignite the hearts of us all to have a passion for the Gospel. Teach our church to share the Gospel with others. Teach us to live as those who are true bearers of the good news of Jesus Christ. Remind us of our purpose. Convict us of our purpose. Empower us to live our purpose. In Jesus name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

- P: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and † give you peace
- C: **Amen.**
- P: We are now entering the mission field!
- C: **'Here am I! Send me!'**

CLOSING HYMN

"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

LSB 352



As we move closer to Christmas, this is truly one of those very special **“God Moments”** for you to take the opportunity to INVITE someone you know, to join us for our special Christmas worship opportunities! God is going to put lots of people in your path these next few weeks with the expectation that you will take that opportunity God will give you to Connect People to Jesus! When you **think about it... Christmas** is all around us, we see the commercials for **what the world thinks of Christmas and now it's YOUR** turn to share the REAL meaning of Christmas and what Jesus did for you! Studies upon studies have shown that after Christmas Eve...Holy Week and Easter are the services that un-churched people are most likely to attend. Please—use this to your advantage and make the effort to ask that friend, neighbor, or family member to come to one of our services **with you. They don't need to “know” anything about the services as everything is printed in our bulletins. They don't need to bring money; they don't need to dress a certain fashion, AND...we guarantee the roof is very solid and will not fall in on them.** So, show these people just how much you love them by asking them to come hear the true message and meaning of love in Jesus Christ. Did you also know that people will attend a church NOT because of the pastor or the music or its doctrine **BUT BECAUSE THEY WERE INVITED BY A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER!** While it is obviously important to Connect People to Jesus... **let us not forget those who need to be “RECONNECTED TO JESUS!”** So as you see, visit or talk to some of our brothers and sisters in Christ that we have **not seen for some time...take the opportunity to INVITE them to join us again!**

Connecting Points

TODAY: we can truly say.. "HAPPY NEW YEAR!" as we begin a new church year. The first Sunday in Advent always marks the beginning of a new church year. The season of Advent is comprised of the four consecutive Sundays leading up to Christmas. (This year the fourth Sunday in Advent is also Christmas Eve) The theme of the season is to 1) prepare us to celebrate the birth of our Lord once again and, 2) remind us that we must be ready for that Day when our Lord returns again.



One of the symbols of the season is the Advent wreath with its four candles. Advent is a season of both hope and anticipation for the Christian. The color of the season is BLUE~ the color of both hope and anticipation.

POINSETTIA ORDERS: will **begin TODAY!** We have a total of 70 plants on order at \$6.50 per plant. Orders will be received **through Sunday, December 17th.**

GIFT CARD TREE: THREE winners will be chosen **THIS MORNING** before our **10:30** worship!

BE SURE TO INVITE: family and friends to our worship **each Sunday** at **8:00 & 10:30AM, with Family Bible Hour at 9:15AM.** What a great way for you to share with others what God is doing among us as we join together as God's family for worship.



ADVENT DEVOTIONS: In your mailboxes you will find a copy of the Advent Devotionals from *Lutheran Hour Ministries* entitled "Love Came Down." You are encouraged to take yours home with you and, **DAILY during this Advent season**, take a special time to read your devotion as you prepare to celebrate the birthday of our King. There are additional copies of these devotionals under the mailboxes for you to take and **SHARE** with someone. ALSO available during Advent are devotionals written by our FL-GA District staff, Circuit Visitors, and Board of Directors. You can find these devotionals at flgadistrict.org. Pastor Pfeffer's devotionals will be posted **December 20 & 21.**



DECEMBER MINISTRY TEAM MEETINGS: Team members, please note your team's meeting:

Youth Ministry—**TODAY, Sunday 12/3 @ 11:45AM**, Fellowship Hall

Fellowship—**Tuesday 12/5 @ 5:30PM**, Pastor Pfeffer's office

Missions & Outreach—**Tuesday 12/5 @ 6:30PM**, Fellowship Hall

Human Care—**Sunday 12/10 @ 11:45AM**, Fellowship Hall

Elders—**Sunday 12/10 @ 4:00PM**, Pfeffer Home

Board of Directors—**Thursday 12/14 @ 6:30PM**, Conference Room

Remember, the Lord's work here at Hope is counting on you—and so are we!





NEW FLOWER CHART: is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Either one or two families can sign up for a particular Sunday. If the flowers are for a special occasion, write the occasion next to your name on the chart. The florist charges \$30.00 for two vases. *Mark your special offering envelope: Flowers.*



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS BUTTONS: are available in the Narthex for you to wear and share as we celebrate this special season only by keeping Christ a part of it! Share the good news of His coming with one of these special buttons. Please, to help offset costs, there is a donation jar in the basket with the buttons for your donation towards this outreach.



CHILDREN'S GIFT BAGS: Christmas will be here before we know it. Hope's tradition is to hand out gift bags to the children/youth on **Christmas Eve**. If you would like donate items for the bags or make a donation towards them, contact *Liz Pfeffer* at 813-752-1164 or epfeffer@hntb.com.



CHRISTMAS TREE CONTEST: sponsored by our *Plant City Chamber of Commerce* is **in progress**, and *Hope* is participating! To be a judge of the trees, stop by the Chamber office or go to plantcity.org for contest rules and judging cards. By participating, you can win a gift card from the Chamber!

ADVENT IS NOW: Join us **each Wednesday** for our midweek Advent worship...What a GREAT opportunity to invite someone to join you! Worship is as follows: **4:30PM**—Traditional Advent Worship in Sanctuary; **5:15-6:15PM**—Fellowship dinner; **6:30PM**—Advent Worship—an intergenerational, "hands on" style service with an Advent craft—in Fellowship Hall. Join us **each week** for one or both of our Advent opportunities under the theme, "*Together in Advent.*"



INVITES ARE COMING: That's right, start thinking **NOW** whom you plan to invite to Hope's Christmas Worship opportunities. Again, we cannot emphasize enough that this is the time of year people who are either unchurched or de-churched are most open to your invitation to come church. Be sure to take those opportunities God will give you to share the real meaning of Christmas! Invitations will be distributed **following our morning worship services on December 17th**.



THANK YOU: to the many willing and loving hands that decorated our sanctuary for the Advent-Christmas season **last Sunday**. Your help is ALWAYS appreciated!

TOGETHER IN ADVENT

Our midweek Advent Worship **will begin on Wednesday, November 29th** with services at **4:30PM** (traditional worship) in our sanctuary, a fellowship meal will be served from **5:15-6:15PM** in Fellowship Hall and our **6:30PM** worship will take place in Fellowship Hall and will be an “intergenerational, hands on” style service. Both services will begin with our traditional Advent – Christmas hymn sing. Our theme for these services will be **Together In Advent** as we celebrate together as the family of God the coming of God's Son for our salvation. Each week we will focus on a different activity for our “to do list” that is centered on giving and sharing instead of materialism.

DECEMBER 6: SEND PEACE (Micah 5:2-5a)

Beyond sending cards to loved ones this Advent season, we do all we can as the family of God to send peace to one another because the Prince of Peace is on His way.
Dinner Host: Christian Growth | Menu: Spaghetti w/sides

DECEMBER 13: SHARE JOY (Zephaniah 3:14-20)

In this time when we share cookies and other treats with one another, we share joy with those around us that they might taste and see that the Lord is good to us through the birth of His Son.

Dinner Host: Missions & Outreach Ministry Team | Menu: Soup & Bread



DECEMBER 20: Hope's Annual Christmas Program: The King and Me
6:30PM (No 4:30 service or dinner)



FAMILY BIBLE HOUR—Sundays @ 9:15am



TOGETHER IN ADVENT: During Advent & Christmas we love to buy and wrap presents, send Christmas cards and share cookies. Those are wonderful things to do but, we may become so busy with those things that we forget that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus. In this study we will see that in the holy Child of Bethlehem, God is present among us with His gifts of peace, joy and love, gift that can now share with others in His name. *Leader: Pastor Pfeffer*

ADULTS: WATCH THE LAMB, WALK IN VICTORY: The darkness-shattering light spoken into existence by God in Genesis explodes into glorious, unfiltered radiance in REVELATION. Here, God's story, revealed in His Word, draws to a stunning consummation. REVELATION unveils God's perfect justice and glorious design for those Jesus redeems from every tribe, language, people and nation. God's children find HOPE, PEACE AND REST in the unfailing purposes of God. Join us as we continue a verse-by-verse study of REVELATION. *Leader: Gloria Warner*

YOUNG ADULT SWHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY: Join us for this new series by Andy Stanley. "Everyone wants to be happy. But what makes us happy? And why is happiness easy to find, but hard to keep?" *Leader: Pastor Shea*

GRADES 7—12: GUYS: From the time they're born, boys are given a "code" to live by: don't cry, don't play with dolls, don't be a wimp...you get the picture. For a teenage guy, it's tough enough to figure out what it means to just be yourself—let alone how to become a man. This eight-week study that will help teenage guys discover what it really means to be a "man," to Become A Young Man of God. *Leader: Pastor Shea*

GRADES 7—12: GIRLS: Teenage girls are so caught up with how they look, who they are, and what others think of them. Through media, models, and even friends our society gives an 'ideal image' for girls—what the world calls a 'Perfect 10'. But God defines girls with a different image. Created in His image you are beautiful. Constructed as His temple His Spirit lives in you (1 Cor. 3:16). This book, Godly and Girly, emboldens young women with self-esteem, confidence about their body image, and secures their identity as God's beloved daughters. *Leader: Liz Pfeffer*

GRADES 1-6: CROSS EXPLORATIONS: The fall quarter begins with an overview of how God works through prophets and kings looking at Solomon to Queen Esther. *Leader: Yolanda Heipp*

PRE-SCHOOL—KINDERGARTEN: GROWING IN CHRIST: The fall quarter begins with an overview of how God works through prophets and kings looking at Solomon to Queen Esther. *Leaders: Ellen Whitehurst, Tracy MacDonald*

Advent Worship

(beginning Wednesday, November 29th)

Sundays

8:00AM & 10:30AM – Worship

9:15AM – Family Bible Hour

4:00PM – Spanish Worship

Wednesdays

4:30PM – Traditional Worship

5:15PM – Fellowship Dinner

6:30PM – Family Worship



SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, December 20

6:30pm

Rehearsals: Dec 3, 10 & 17 @ 11:45am
(light lunch provided)

Dress Rehearsal: Dec 18 @ 7:00pm

Cast Party: Dec 20 @ 5:00pm (light dinner)



Chrismons once again adorn the trees in our chancel thanks to the many hands who lovingly decorate our church and make it so warm and inviting. The word Chrismon is a contraction of the two words—Christ and Monogram. A Chrismon Tree decorated with symbols from Christian history tells a story of the true meaning of Christmas.

Shell—Signified the Baptism of Christ

Jerusalem Cross—A symbol of the Crusades

Descending Dove—Represents the Holy Spirit

Stylized Fish—Early Christians used the fish as an easily made and recognized symbol.

Sun—A symbol of the Son of Righteousness

Fleur de Lis—The flower of the virgin Mary

Butterfly—A symbol of New Life and The Resurrection

I.H.S.—The first three letters of Jesus in Greek.

Anchor Cross—An early symbol meaning steadfastness and hope

Shepherd's Crook—A cross, hung with Alpha and Omega to show that this staff refers to the Good Shepherd.

The Fish—Use of the Fish as a symbol for early Christians developed because the letters of the Greek word for fish, Ichthus, formed an acrostic on the phrase Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.

Three Entwined Circles—A symbol for the Holy Trinity

The Crown—A symbol of the Kingship of Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Chi Rho with Alpha and Omega—The Chi Rho is the oldest monogram of Christ. The Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, thus the beginning and end are symbolic.



More about our Trees

The two trees on the floor of the church are the Hope Family trees. These are the trees that hold the many beautiful Chrismons described left. These trees also have a Christmas ball with the name of a Hope Family member. Each family of Hope is represented by one of the clear balls on the trees. The trees by the altar are known as the: Sinners' tree (lectern side) and the Saints' tree (pulpit side).

The Sinners' tree is decorated with 33 red balls, to remind of the forbidden fruit of which God commanded Adam & Eve not to eat and also is the age of our Lord at the time of His death on the cross. The ribbon through the tree is a reminder to us of the serpent—Satan who tempted Adam & Eve to eat of the fruit.

On the Saints' tree, you will find 33 white decorations representing the purity of our Lord. The three white streamers remind us of the grace we receive from our Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the lights are symbolic of Christ, who is the Light of the world.



Christmas Eve, December 24th
9:15AM—Worship
4:00PM—Spanish Worship w/Communion
6:30PM—Candlelight Worship
10:30PM—Candlelight Worship w/Communion

Christmas Day, December 25th
10:30AM—Christmas Worship w/Communion

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

YOUTH DATES

Dec 3—Gift Card Tree Drawing

Dec 8—Youth Christmas Party

Dec 20—Christmas Program

Dec 31—New Year's Eve Party

Grades 6 through 12—friends are always welcome!

Contact Pastor Shea for more info: hopecpastorshea@gmail.com



The
Lutheran
Hour

can be heard EVERY Sunday morning at 7:30 on 540AM

Topics for this month:

December 10: "Prep Time"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Preparing for Christmas is quite different than preparing for Christ. Today's Lutheran Hour message explores those differences. (Mark 1:1-3)

December 17: "Life Narrows Down"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

John the Baptist had a passion for the Lamb of God. What's your passion in life? How far into the future will it take you?

(John 1:6-8, 19-28 (John testifies to Christ))

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

SHUT-INS:

Diane Bates
Melva Dennison
Bonnie Genrich

Dorothy Maltzahn
Mark Stefanos
Tom & Rose Thomas

LEADERS:

Pastor Dean & Liz Pfeffer
Pastor Shea Pennington

Hope Staff
Hope's Ministries

LCMS Synod & District
Our Nation & Armed Forces

Family and Friends of Hope

NEW REQUESTS:

George Banning friend of Pastor Dean & Liz Pfeffer—recovering; knee replacement
Kori Olsen niece of Ron & Tracy MacDonald—anticipating baby boy (12/5)
Ed Proctor friend of Tim & Julie Gates—hospitalized; brain bleed
Millie Wetz recovering from hospitalization; pneumonia

CURRENT REQUESTS:

Diane Bates recovering from surgery
Herb Bayer foster brother of Lorie Hayes—cancer
Tammy Craig daughter of James & Laurretta Tennyson—complicated hernia surgery
Frank Dahlke health concerns
Curtis Floyd shoulder surgery (11/13)
Cyrus Mercier health concerns
Rayetta Stare recovering; health concerns
Mark Stefanos health concerns
Chuck Sullivan Hope's cleaning contractor—surgery; health concerns
Tammy sister of Susan Burtz—hospitalized; heart failure
Libby Voigtmann health concerns

BATTLING CANCER:

Jennifer Barkley	Alice Correia	Lynnie Green	Pat Mailloux	Al Simmons
Tom Battling	Austin Dobbs	JoAnne Hayashi	Victor Miranda	Judy Strait
Herb Bayer	Ginnie Donaldson	Lori Heneka	Jim Moore	Chuck Sullivan
Laura Blake	Donna	Jeanette Herndon	Joy Neely	Theresa
CanDee Brandon	Casey Doyle	Delores Huseth	Thomas Onderdonk	Rose Thomas
John Brom	Jace Driggers	Maggi Hutto	John Rademacher	Mr. Wells
Laura Brom	Kori Dunke	Jason	Alan Rauner	Tom
Bob Broshelle	Marcus Elam	Dale Jarvis	Andrea Reichard	Millie Wetz
Ken Buschbacher	Ellen	Linda	Sara	Laura Winkel
Chantal	Joy Fritzke	Delores Lopresto	Abbey Sedlacek	Candy Wolfe
Carol Chapman	Gail	Lucille Luedke	Sherrie	Rick Ward
Chrissie	Idele Green			Heather Whitehurst

Serving in the Military (R—Reserves)

Zachary Allen	Lorrie Daniell—R	Brad Landis	Derek Quackenbush
Alex Almaguer	Stephen Daniell—R	Bobby Martin	Justin Rappa
Zachary Bennett	Joshua Gross	Aaron Morley	Ryan Sonnenberg
Matt Bracken	Erika Grosskopf	Donnie Pittman	Caleb Strand
Trevor Dahlke	Joshua Kinkead—R	Stephen Olliff—R	Mike Szostkiewicz—R



"Think of us in this way as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries."

1Corinthians 4:1

SERVING OUR LORD THIS SUNDAY (12/3/2017) ARE:

Bell Ringer 10:30/Tristan Mercier
Acolyte 10:30/Thomas Goethe
Lector 8:00/Carl Bergner; 10:30/Kathy Drapp
Elder on Duty 8:00/Brian Heipp; 10:30/Jim Drapp; 4:00/Todd Warner
Communion Assistant 8:00/Brian Heipp; 10:30/Jim Drapp
Flowers Edelman & E. Reaume families
Offerings Dale & Jonie Wenzel
Ushers Team 1
8:00/Wayne Warner,* David Booher, David Niver, Jeff Reaume;
10:30/ Todd Warner,* Mack Goethe, Wendell Lattz, Jim Szostkiewicz

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by
James & Laretta Tennyson in honor of their 55th wedding anniversary
and
Ernie Reaume in memory of Lois' birthday*

SERVING OUR LORD THIS ADVENT WEDNESDAY (12/6/2017) ARE:

Lector 4:30/Donna Koren; 6:30/Youth
Elder on Duty 6:30/Todd Warner

SERVING OUR LORD NEXT SUNDAY (12/10/2017) ARE:

Bell Ringer 10:30/Mason Reese
Lector 8:00/Donna Koren; 10:30/Alex Drapp
Elder on Duty 8:00/Wayne Warner; 10:30/Mike McMinn;
4:00/Christine Mansell
Flowers Howell family
Offerings Alison Reaume & Cathie Warner
Ushers Team 2
8:00/Tom Whitehurst,* Carl Bergner, Harold Hastings, James Tennyson;
10:30/Nick Trivunovich,* Alex Drapp, Jim Drapp, Ken Hartmann

SERVING OUR LORD THIS MONTH OF DECEMBER:

Altar Guild Yolanda Heipp & Liz Pfeffer
Nurse/HMT Member Sally Kimbrell