



Welcome to Hope

SUNDAYS

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

ADVENT WEDNESDAYS

4:30PM—Traditional Worship
5:15PM—Fellowship Dinner
6:30PM—Family 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 worshipers, 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.

*Parts of this worship are protected by copyrights by Concordia Publishing House, Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, The Fellowship Ministries, Inc., Augsburg Publishing and CCLI License #759305. We acknowledge and appreciate their generosity in sharing these items with us as a part of our praise and worship to Jesus Christ this day.

Activities This Week at Hope:

Sunday 12/1	9:15	Worship w/Communion
	10:30	Family Bible Hour
	11:30	Rehearsal: Christmas Program
	4:00	Spanish Worship w/Communion
Monday 12/2	9:00	Quilting
	5:30	Bell Choir
	6:30	Choir
Tuesday 12/3	6:30	Ministry Team Meetings: Christian Growth, Fellowship, Health, Human Care, Missions & Outreach, Youth
Wednesday 12/4	4:30	Traditional Worship
	5:15	Fellowship Dinner (<i>Host: Youth Menu: Wendy's Chili</i>)
	6:30	Family Worship
Thursday 12/5	10:30	Bible Study
Friday 12/6	2:00	Set-up: Ladies' Advent Tea
Saturday 12/7	8:00	Trustees Workday
	11:00	12 th Annual Ladies' Advent Tea
	3:00	Youth Christmas Party
Sunday 12/8		Youth Scrip Orders Due
	9:15	Worship
	10:15	Blood Pressure Screening
	10:30	Family Bible Hour
	11:30	Rehearsal: Christmas Program
	4:00	Spanish Worship w/Communion

Worship Attendance / Communion:

Wednesday, November 20, 2019:

Worship: 6:30: 25/25

Hope Studies: 4

Sunday, November 24, 2019:

Worship: 9:15: 140

FBH: Adults: 37 **Youth:** 6 **Children:** 0

Spanish Worship: 4:00: 90/40

Offerings—General Fund: \$6,888.50

Stewardship Perspective:

Matt. 21:3 – “If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” Just a colt and her foal. How significant could they be? Could they really be used by the Lord for some great, heavenly purpose? This is one facet of stewardship we often forget: it is a blessing to us to be of service in the Lord’s kingdom. What honor the Lord bestows upon us by using our gifts for His goals.

Large Print editions of our Sunday worship folders are available from the ushers. If you are in need of one, don't hesitate to ask!

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT



December 1, 2019

AS WE GATHER

"Look out!" is about all we can yell as something unexpected is about to happen. The person we are warning has to be awake in order to respond. That's why Jesus tells His disciples, including us, to be awake and watchful for His return. He is our Lord and Master—our King! Advent is a gracious time of preparation for Jesus' coming, once in history, to us in Word and Sacrament today, and at the end of time. When our Lord returns, it will be to usher in the kingdom of God, which Isaiah says will be so peaceful they will "beat their swords into plowshares." Before that day, preparing means leading loving lives, Paul tells us, for "salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed." Look out! The King comes!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION "Helmsley"

Charles Callahan

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

"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"

LSB 336

INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Stay awake,

C: for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

P: For salvation is nearer to us now

C: than when we first believed.

P: They shall beat their swords into plowshares,

C: and their spears into pruning hooks.

P: I was glad when they said to me,

C: "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

P: Our Lord urges us to stay awake and watch for His return, when He will usher in the kingdom of God. Paul tells us to "cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

C: In our fallen sinful condition, our thoughts, words, and deeds often reflect the fallen world around us. Heavenly Father, forgive us for Jesus' sake, and by Your Holy Spirit turn our feet to walk in ways pleasing to You. Awaken our faith that we greet You whenever You return.

P: Our Lord's first coming was to save us—to die and rise in our place. When we receive His body and blood in the Lord's Supper, it is for the remission of sins. When He returns, it will be to usher in the kingdom of God, in which He promised through Isaiah, "He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths." As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



☩ **LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH** ☩

P: Advent is a time of reflection and renewal.

C: God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.

P: Advent is a time of self-examination.

C: God of light, shine in our hearts and strengthen our resolve.

P: Advent is a time of joyful expectation.

C: God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our faith.

P: Advent is a time of service and searching.

C: **God of light, shine in our hearts and ignite our compassion.**

P: Today we light the first candle — the candle of hope — reminding us that in sending Christ, God sent hope to the earth. Hope for a world free from war and pain, hope for a sense of purpose and belonging, and hope for peace and prosperity for our children and our children’s children. When Christ came, he brought us the Light of Lights. Light that fills us with hope, illuminates our lives, and shines in our hearts.

RESPONSE

"Light of Light"

Voi - ces cry out from a world in grief:
prayers of those who seek re - lief.
End their dark - ness, hear their call for
peace on earth, good will for all.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Voi - ces cry out from a world in grief: prayers of those who seek re - lief. End their dark - ness, hear their call for peace on earth, good will for all."

Joel Raney | ©2019 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188 | www.hopepublishing.com 800-323-1049 | All rights reserved. International copyright secured.



✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1-5 (p.567)

(In the kingdom of God, we will learn to walk in the way of the Lord; it will be a time of peace.)

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be

established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 13:11-14 (p.948)

(Paul urges loving living as we await Christ's return.)

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE

"In This Advent"

(tune: LSB 338)

**In this Advent, brothers, sisters, Let us pause and so prepare
That we may greet Christ, our Savior, Here in worship and in prayer.
He came once, fulfilling promise, And He shall come back again.
Daily comes He, Word Incarnate, In our hearts and minds to reign.**

**Brethren, heed the gracious warning Of the day of Christ's return.
Stay awake and watchful ever, For His advent to discern.
Keep yourself alert and ready; Without notice shall He come
Then to usher all the faithful Into His eternal home.**

Text: James Pierce. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44 (p.830)

(Jesus warns against not being alert for His return.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

³⁶But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!

C: *(Sung)* **Praise to You, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"*

LSB 516

SERMON

"What Are You Waiting For?"

Matthew 24:36-44

Rev. Shea Pennington

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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 do 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

"Wachet Auf"

arr: Franklin Ritter

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

P: Knowing that we are now nearer to the day of salvation than before, let us come with even greater urgency and plead on behalf of all of God's people and everyone according to their needs. O Lord, You have made us glad to enter into Your presence to hear the good news of our Savior and to receive Your gifts. Preserve Your Church against all her enemies, and lead us to walk in Your ways and to follow Your paths, that when Jesus returns in His glory we may welcome Him with glad hosannas. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Eternal Lord, You have raised up the prophets to prepare the way of the Lord and given pastors to Your Church who preach Your Gospel faithfully. Continue to bless us with those who bring to us Your Word and Sacraments,

and give us ears to hear and hearts to believe the good news of our Savior and to give bold witness throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful God, You have appointed times and seasons and mark the rhythm of our lives through our worship on the Lord's Day and the Church Year. Guide us through this calendar to know You with joy and to mark the days as they move toward Your appointed consummation when our Lord will return in all His glory as Lord and Judge of all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Mighty Lord, You hold in Your hand all the might of man. Bless those who have the responsibility of leadership within our government, that they may be guided by Your Law and work in accordance with Your will and purpose. Grant to us the gift of peace, an end to violence and deliverance from terror and threat. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Loving Lord, You have given to us Your Son to bear the burdens of our sin and to grant us healing and hope. Hear us on behalf of those in great need, those afflicted with physical and mental ills, those whose hearts are touched by grief, and those in their last days on earth especially *Kathy Bravis, Bren Ellison, Michael Greatens, George Hayes, Helen Jarvis, Tristan Mercier, and Mark Stefanos*. Lord, in Your mercy,

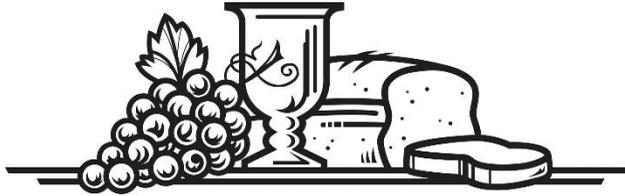
C: hear our prayer.

P: Everlasting God, Your Son has given us a place at His table and the food of His own flesh and blood given for the life of the world. Grant us faith to recognize His body in this bread and His blood in this cup and to receive this blessed communion with joy and thanksgiving. Unite Your people, that we may confess with one voice the truth of Your Word and live together in love and anticipation for that day when Christ shall return in triumph. Bring us with all the saints into Your eternal presence and to the marriage feast of the Lamb without end. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy and mighty God, You have shown to us more mercy than we deserve, and in Your great love You have redeemed us from all our sins. Make glad the hearts of Your people, that we who know Your salvation may live in peace and quietness all our days. All these things and all other things which we need, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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, right...praising you and singing:

(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.

Refrain

Re - jice! Re - jice! 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 *"O Christ, the Holy Lamb of God"* (tune: LSB 357)
**O Christ, the holy Lamb of God, Who takes away the whole world's sin,
 Have mercy on us now, we pray, And grant Your heav'nly peace within.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Text: James Pierce. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

(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

"The Advent of Our King"

LSB 331

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

LSB 332

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

"Lord, Let Your Servant Go in Peace" (tune: *LSB 357*)

Lord, let Your servant go in peace, Your Word fulfilled within my sight.

Salvation comes for all to see. For Israel, glory; Gentiles, light.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

All glory to the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, with them one,

As was in the beginning, now, And as the endless ages run.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text: James Pierce. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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: Jesus said, "Stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who created us, the † Son who saved us and shall return to welcome us home, and the Holy Spirit who creates and nourishes the faith that Jesus is the Lord—be with you now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: We are now entering the mission field!

C: 'Here am I! Send me!'

CLOSING HYMN

"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

LSB 348



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 days 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!

Growing in the Grace of Giving



Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, is teaching those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. This is because worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and to what we're devoted. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument.

Your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds and clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you when you are worth more than they are?

For you know that you are worth more than them. You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No!

He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone. He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserve because of it. He was raised again on the third day to overcome sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about this and find security in it, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God is risen from the dead, lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that God – who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son, and sanctifies you by His Spirit – will not keep His promises of sustaining you in this life.

Jesus says this: Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness. God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need – food and clothing, house and home, etc. – and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. Those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.

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. The theme of Advent 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 in great glory. 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 hope and anticipation.



December 2019

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?: We all know how busy **December** can be...so to be sure you don't forget what is happening here at *Hope*, your **December** calendar and servant schedule is in your mailbox **TODAY**. Be sure to take it home with you AND share all the great events and things God is doing among us with a friend, neighbor and family member!



POINSETTIA ORDERS: to adorn our Lord's altar for our Christmas worship are being accepted **TODAY**. Cost per 6½" plant is \$8.75 each. Deadline for *ALL* orders is **Sunday, December 15th**.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS: written by *The Lutheran Hour* are in your mailboxes **TODAY**. This year's theme is "*Call His Name Jesus.*" Be sure to take yours home and take an extra to share! ALSO available **beginning next Sunday** are Advent devotionals written by our *Florida Georgia District Circuit Visitors* and Board of Directors. You can view these devotionals daily at FLGADistrict.org. *Pastor Pfeffer's* devotionals will be published on **December 10th & 17th**. This year's theme is *Let Jesus Be Seen...* in our homes, in our church, in our community and in our world.



Sermons Are

Online

MISS A SUNDAY?: You can listen to the messages from our **Sunday morning worship** by simply going to our website (hopeplantcity.com) and going to the DOWNLOADS tab—there you will our Sunday morning messages. Sermons are posted on **Monday mornings**.



THANK YOU: to the helping hands that gave of their time & talents **yesterday** to decorate our Sanctuary to celebrate the birthday of our King! As always it looks GREAT and truly serves as a reminder to us of the REAL reason for this season! Thanks to *April Walkenhorst* who gave our wreathes a facelift. We appreciate and thank you for all your hard work!

HELP OUR SPANISH MINISTRY THIS CHRISTMAS: The Hispanic children of Hope would be happy to receive Christmas gifts. We would appreciate anyone that would like to donate a Thrivent Action Card for **this event**. Please contact Rev. Miguel Sanabria, Jr. at 813-406-9174 or majp2905@gmail.com if you are able to help. *God blesses the one who gives with joy (2 Cor. 9: 7)*



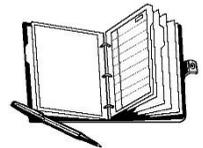
CHILDREN'S GIFT BAGS: Christmas will be here before we know it. Hope's tradition is to hand out gift bags to every child/youth **on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day**. If you would like to donate items for the bags or make a donation towards them, please contact Liz Pfeffer at 813-752-1164 or epfeffer@hntb.com.



A FRIENDLY REMINDER: All announcements for our **Sunday** bulletins are due to Jessica (hopepcsecretary@gmail.com) by **NOON, TUESDAYS**. In order to prepare bulletins in a timely manner, this deadline is required.



MONTHLY MINISTRY TEAMS NIGHT: The following ministry teams will meet on **Tuesday, December 3** at **6:30PM** in Fellowship Hall: Christian Growth, Fellowship, Health, Human Care, Missions & Outreach, and Youth. Please make every effort to attend as this allows greater communication and working together between the teams.



SO, WHO YOU GONNA INVITE?: We hope you are thinking of the one special person OR persons who would like to invite to worship with you as we gather to celebrate our Lord's birthday. This day is way too important for us to NOT invite a special friend or family member. Just think... inviting someone to join you at Jesus manger bed **this Christmas** will be the BEST gift they could ever receive!



INVITES ARE COMING: Start thinking NOW whom you plant 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 to church. Be sure to take those opportunities God WILL give you to share the real meaning of Christmas! Invites will be distributed **following our morning worship on December 15th & 22nd**.



2020 FLOWER CHART: is NOW posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please be sure to sign up to insure you get the date(s) you want to place flowers on our Lord's altar. Altar flowers are a great way to mark a birthday, anniversary, special occasion, or remember someone special. The price, at this time, will remain at \$17.50 per side (\$35.00 for both sides). There is a limit to 2 bouquets **per week**. Please be sure to print clearly.



ADVENT IS NOW: Hard to believe but we are now in the season of Advent and that means our midweek Advent worship begins. We will gather for worship each Wednesday during Advent (**December 4, 11, & 18**). As in the past there will be a **4:30PM** traditional style worship in the sanctuary, **5:15PM** fellowship dinner and **6:30PM** intergenerational worship with a special project in *Fellowship Hall*. Join us as for the fun, fellowship, and celebration as we prepare for the coming of our King! And by the way... don't forget to **BRING A FRIEND!**



ARISE & SHINE: Each **Wednesday** we focus on a different aspect of the light of Christ and how we are enlightened by him throughout our lives. In our worship for **this week** we celebrate the rising light. Repenting of our sins, we put away the works of darkness and dress in the armor of light.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: New GriefShare sessions for **2020 will begin January 14th**.



THE NEED CONTINUES: for children's type foods (mac-n-cheese, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruits, cereal, etc.) for our *United Food Bank of Plant City*. Our food bank provides a "weekend backpack" program to 6 area schools that are given to students who, without this backpack, would NOT eat until their return to school on Monday mornings. Your help will go a long way to ending food insecurities in our community. You can place your food donations in the blue barrel in the Narthex.

TURKEY LEFTOVERS: Once again TREMENDOUS THANKS to one and all who worked so hard **last Sunday** to make our *25th Annual Turkey Supper* a success! God truly gifted us with a great day to *Connect People to Jesus!* Again, a special thank you to our community partners for their sponsorship of **this year's** supper: *Thrivent Financial, Jarrett Scott Ford, Jacks Insurance, Winn Dixie of Plant City, Poppell Insurance, T. Clayton Jenkins Construction, MST Sod Equipment, and Walden Lake Car Wash*. Through their generous support, we are now able to give more back into our community. Be sure to thank our sponsors when you visit their businesses! Here is what we know **as of today:** Dinners Served: 600. Once a final accounting is complete, we will share that information with you.



ONLINE GIVING: We are now set up for online giving for *Building Hope for the Future*. To do so, simply go to our website (hopeplantcity.com) click on the link for online giving. The opportunity for your weekly tithes and offerings will be **coming soon**. Simply watch your bulletins and e-blasts.

Family Bible Hour, Sundays at 10:30AM

PRESCHOOL—GRADE 5, MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

ENDURING FAITH: As students progress through the program, they learn all about their Savior, Jesus Christ, what their Savior means for them, how to defend their faith, and how to teach the faith to others. Lessons spiral to help students go deeper each time they re-encounter a Bible passage. Age-appropriate activities build skills to strengthen Bible learning. All of our youth and children classes will be working through this curriculum.

Preschool—Grade 5 Leaders: Yolanda Heipp, Tracy MacDonald, Liz Pfeffer, Ellen Whitehurst; Middle & High School Leader: Pastor Shea

ADULTS

ENDURING FAITH: We too will be working through ENDURING FAITH! This will allow entire families to be studying the same lessons and open the door for further discussion, study and prayer in your home. What a great opportunity this will be for us all to grow in Christ together!

Leader: Pastor Pfeffer

YOUNG ADULTS

ROOTED: Are you in your 20's or 30's? Our "Rooted" class will cover topics, struggles, doubts, and questions that you may be experiencing in your own life or that you see others experiencing. Together we will become rooted in Christ for the answers (Colossians 2:6-7). Join us in the Stephen Ministry classroom.

Leader: Becky Hartmann



Hope's Annual Christmas Program
Sunday, December 22nd @ 9:15am

AWAY IN A MANGO



Followed by our Hope Family Christmas Brunch ... You won't want to miss this Christmas Island Adventure!



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 Chrismsons 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.

Advent Wednesdays

4:30PM — Traditional Worship | 5:15PM — Fellowship Dinner | 6:30PM — Family Worship

December 4: Rising Light

Dinner Host: Youth & Youth Ministry Team | Menu: Wendy's Chili

December 11: Reflected Light

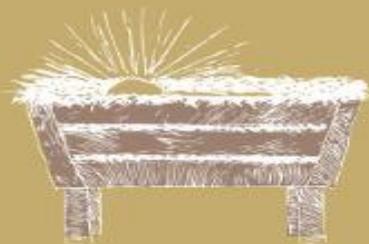
Dinner Host: Music Ministry | Menu: Pulled Pork w/Cole Slaw

December 18: Healing Light

Dinner Host: Missions & Outreach Ministry Team | Menu: Chicken/Rice Casserole

*Menus subject to change.





THIS LITTLE CHILD, OF
LOWLY BIRTH, SHALL BE
THE **JOY** OF ALL THE
EARTH.



CHRIST CAME FOR YOU.

Come join us to receive His forgiveness,
life and salvation.

December Worship at Hope

Sundays

9:15AM—Worship
10:30AM—Family Bible Hour
4:00PM—Spanish Worship

Wednesdays

4:30PM—Traditional Worship
5:15PM—Fellowship Dinner
6:30PM—Family Worship

Sunday, December 22

9:15AM—Christmas Program
10:30AM—Christmas Brunch
4:00PM—Spanish Worship w/Communion

Christmas Eve, December 24

4:00PM—Spanish Christmas Worship w/Communion
6:30PM—Candlelight Worship
10:30PM—Candlelight Worship w/Communion

Christmas Day, December 25

10:30AM—Christmas Worship w/Communion

Sunday, December 29

9:15AM—Worship w/Communion
10:30AM—New Year's Brunch
4:00PM—Spanish Worship w/Communion

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

SHUT-INS:

Jim Baldwin	Sue Crouse	Liz Miller	Rev. Dean & Liz Pfeiffer	Hope's Ministries
Diane Bates	Bonnie Genrich	Laura Rademacher	Rev. Shea & Holly Pennington	Our Armed Forces
Putt Crouse	Dorothy Maltzahn	Mark Stefanos	LCMS Synod & District	Our Nation
			Hope Staff	Our 1 st Responders

LEADERS:

Family and Friends of Hope

NEW REQUESTS:

Kathy Bravis	recovering from back surgery
Debbie	sister of Beverly Pirhonen—cancer; recovering from surgery
John Gravlee family	family friend of Mack & Sheila Goethe—mourning his death
Mary Scott	friend of Beverly Pirhonen—health concerns; anticipating surgery
Betty Snaper	friend of Mac & Sheila Goethe—lymphoma testing

CURRENT REQUESTS:

Denver Burtz	brother of John Burtz—recovering from brain bleed; rehab
Michael Greatens	recovering from surgery; broken hip
George Hayes	recovering; back surgery
Linda Luce	mourning sudden death of Dick
Matthews family	mourning death of Tim's father, Doug
Tristan Mercier	back injury
Faye Mueller	sister of Billy Mueller—health concerns; diagnosed with cancer
Col. Francisco San Pedro	friend of Mack & Sheila Goethe—heart attack
Mark Stefanos	blood clot in leg

BATTLING CANCER:

			Mari	
Tom Battling	Casey Doyle	JoAnne Hayashi	Pat Mason	Abbey Sedlacek
Laura Blake	Jace Driggers	Barry Himmel	Jennifer McCourt	Judy Strait
Bob Broshelle	Kori Dunke	Dale Jarvis	Faye Mueller	Jeannie Lee Taylor
Alice Correia	Marcus Elam	Gordon Long	David Paul Niver	Rick Ward
D	Tim Griffie	Lucille Luedke	Mary Ann Pitre	Mr. Wells
Austin Dobbs	Jerry Gross	Jean Marie Mactye	Becky Schlicher	Millie Wetz
Ginnie Donaldson	Allan H.	Pat Mailloux	Mary Scott	Heather Whitehurst

Serving in the Military (R—Reserves)

Zachary Allen	Lorrie Daniell—R	Bobby Martin	Justin Rappa
Alex Almaguer	Stephanie Enloe—R	Aaron Morley	Ryan Sonnenberg
Jacob Bertsch	Joshua Gross	Stephen Olliff—R	Caleb Strand
Matt Bracken	Brandon Hastings	Donnie Pittman	Mike Szostkiewicz—R
Stephen Daniell—R	Brad Landis	Derek Quackenbush	

Due to space limitation, prayer requests can only be listed for four weeks.



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

1Corinthians 4:1

SERVING OUR LORD THIS SUNDAY (12/1/2019) ARE:

Bell Ringer	9:15/Jackson Venrick
Acolyte	9:15/Abby Kelly
Lector	9:15/John Koren
Elder on Duty	9:15/Wayne Warner
Communion Assistant	9:15/Wayne Warner
Flowers	Heipp family
Offerings	Ed & Mary Beth Sanchez
Ushers	Team 2

10:30/Nick Trivunovich,* Alex Drapp, Jim Drapp, Ken Hartmann

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by
Brian & Yolanda Heipp*

SERVING OUR LORD THIS ADVENT WEDNESDAY (12/4/2019) ARE:

Lector	4:30/Donna Koren; 6:30/Youth
Elder on Duty	6:30/Jim Carnicelli

SERVING OUR LORD NEXT SUNDAY (12/8/2019) ARE:

Bell Ringer	9:15/Abby Aigner
Lector	9:15/Loretta Scott
Elder on Duty	9:15/Brian Heipp
Flowers	Goethe family
Offerings	Alan & Sue Griffin
Ushers	Team 3

10:30/ Stuart Howell,* Wendell Lattz, Andrew MacDonald, Ron MacDonald, Jack Moberg

SERVING OUR LORD THIS MONTH OF DECEMBER:

Altar Guild	Yolanda Heipp
Nurse	April Walkenhorst (813-951-8239)