



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Welcome to Hope

SUNDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

6:30PM—Living Hope Worship
6:30PM—Hope Studies
6:30PM—Youth Group

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.

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Activities This Week at Hope:

Sunday 12/22	9:15	Worship w/Christmas Program
	10:30	Hope Family Christmas Brunch
	4:00	Spanish Worship w/Communion
Monday 12/23	<i>Winter Break, Hillsborough County Public Schools (Dec. 23-Jan. 6)</i>	
	5:30	Bell Choir
	6:30	Choir
Tuesday 12/24	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	
	<i>Winter Break, Hillsborough County Public Schools (Dec. 23-Jan. 6)</i>	
	6:30	Candlelight Worship
	10:30	Candlelight Worship w/Communion
Wednesday 12/25	<i>Christmas Church Office Closed</i>	
	<i>Winter Break, Hillsborough County Public Schools (Dec. 23-Jan. 6)</i>	
	10:30	Christmas Worship w/Communion
Thursday 12/26	<i>Winter Break, Hillsborough County Public Schools (Dec. 23-Jan. 6)</i>	
Friday 12/27	<i>Winter Break, Hillsborough County Public Schools (Dec. 23-Jan. 6)</i>	
Saturday 12/28	<i>Winter Break, Hillsborough County Public Schools (Dec. 23-Jan. 6)</i>	
Sunday 12/29	<i>Winter Break, Hillsborough County Public Schools (Dec. 23-Jan. 6)</i>	
	9:15	Worship w/Communion
	10:30	New Year's Brunch— <i>please bring a brunch-type dish to share!</i>
	4:00	Spanish Worship w/Communion

Worship Attendance / Communion:

Wednesday, December 11, 2019:

Worship: 4:30: 23 6:30: 35

Sunday, December 15, 2019:

Worship: 9:15: 134/110

FBH: Adults: 40 Youth: 0 Children: 0

Spanish Worship: 4:00: 33/22

Offerings—General Fund: \$13,251.20

Stewardship Perspective:

Matt. 1:21 – “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Jesus has done what our good works could never do. He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, and set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God’s Law could not do – truly motivate us to truly good works – Jesus’ love has done.

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!



December 22, 2019

AS WE GATHER

Some videos go viral as our friends tell us, "Look at that!" Centuries ago, people would join a parade through city gates so they all could be part of some great event. As we share the news of Jesus entering human history, we bring our friends to that once-for-all yet eternal event. God kept His promise, Joseph named Mary's son Jesus, and we are called saints by the grace of God. It's news that can't be kept to ourselves; we have to tell our friends, "Look at that! Look at what God has done!"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child w/Sheep May Safely Graze" arr: Anna Laura Page
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.

PROCESSIONAL SONG "Oh Come Little Children"

**O come little children O come one and all
O come to the cradle In Bethlehem's stall
The bright star will guide us And show us the way
To Jesus who's lying Asleep on the hay**

**O come everybody O come to the stall
With hearts full of love For this baby so small
O sing little children To Him you adore
O sing with the angels Sing peace evermore**

CCLI Song # 7133257 | Christoph von Schmid | David Cherwien | Johann A. P. Schultz | Melanie Schulte | © Words: Public Domain Music: 2019 Birnamwood Publications
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INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

C: **and shall call His name Immanuel.**

P: She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus,

C: **for He will save His people from their sins.**

P: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

C: **He who has clean hands and a pure heart.**

P: Christ Jesus was descended from David according to the flesh

C: **and declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit
of holiness by His resurrection from the dead.**

P: In today's Reading from Isaiah, when God was about to send the King of Assyria to destroy Judah, King Ahaz didn't want to hear about it, though the nation deserved destruction.

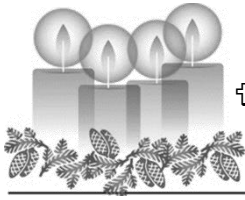
C: **Help us to consider the physical or spiritual consequences of our
actions, not taking God's grace and forgiveness for granted.**

P: As Paul begins his Letter to Rome, he writes that he is "called to be an apostle . . . among all the nations, including you."

C: **Help us to make talking about God's grace in our lives with people
different from ourselves a priority. We are by nature sinful and
have sinned in our words, in our thoughts, and in our actions. Have
mercy on us, Jesus!**

P: God's plan of salvation has been unwavering since creation. The prophecies were kept, the Savior entered human history to pay for all sins, and everyone who believes has been given "clean hands and a pure heart" purely by the grace of God for Jesus' sake. 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.**



✠ LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH ✠

with *Hope Ringers*
& *Jubilation Singers* 

- P: Advent is a time to let go of anger and fear.
C: God of love, fill our hearts with true compassion.
P: Advent is a time to look for the best in others.
C: God of love, help us speak truth with kindness.
P: Advent is a time to share with those in need.
C: God of love, remind us that in giving, we receive.
P: Advent is a time to notice and appreciate the good around us.
C: God of love, help us see the world through loving eyes.
- P: Today, we light four candles — the candles of hope, peace, joy, and the candle representing love. This candle is a symbol of Christ's eternal love for us, as well as a reminder that we have been instructed to love others as we love ourselves. Because God is love, and because we were created in God's image, we ourselves are the embodiment of God's love here on earth. Love is patient and kind and powerful, and we all share the calling to go into the world and spread that love to others.

HYMN

"Light of Light"





✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10-17 (p.572)

*(Although a newborn will be called Immanuel,
yet the King of Assyria shall destroy Judah.)*

¹⁰Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven."
¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."



**Look, the young woman is with
child and shall bear a son, and
shall name him Immanuel.**

Isaiah 7:14, NRSV

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25 (p.807)

*(Joseph is instructed to name Mary's son Jesus, for He
will save His people from their sins.)*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C: *(Spoken)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of

“THE VIRGIN WILL
conceive
and
GIVE BIRTH
to a
son,
AND THEY WILL
call him
IMMANUEL”
(which means “God with us”).
MATTHEW 1:23, NIV



the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!

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

SONG OF THE DAY

"Mary Did You Know"

**Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered, will soon deliver you.**

**Mary, did you know that your baby boy would give sight to the blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod,
And when you kiss your little baby, you've kissed the face of God?**

(Bridge) **Oh, the blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the Lamb.**

**Oh, Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb,
And the sleeping Child you're holding, is the great— I Am?**

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"Another Day at Sea"

"Make the Best of It"

"We're Gonna Miss This Christmas"

"He's Coming Soon"

"Your Savior Is Born"

"Come and Worship Medley"

"Go, Tell It On the Mountain"

"Away In A Manger Curtain Calls"

(Your Savior Is Born)

(Bridge)

**O come, all ye faithful, come, let us adore Him
O come, all ye faithful, come, let us adore Him
Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord**

(Chorus)

**Do not be afraid I bring good news of great joy
Today in the town of Bethlehem Your Savior is born
Glory to God in the highest Peace on earth to mankind
Today in the town of Bethlehem Your Savior is born, your Savior is born**

(Chorus)

**Do not be afraid I bring good news of great joy
Today in the town of Bethlehem Your Savior is born
Glory to God in the highest Peace on earth to mankind
Today in the town of Bethlehem Your Savior is born, your Savior is born
Today in the town of Bethlehem Your Savior is born, your Savior is born**

(Go, Tell It on the Mountain)

(Bridge)

**Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.**

(Chorus)

**Go, go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere
Go, go, tell it on the mountain Jesus Christ is born**

(Chorus)

**Go, go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere
Go, go, tell it on the mountain Jesus Christ is born**

(Chorus)

**Go, go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere
Go, go, tell it on the mountain Jesus Christ is born
Jesus Christ is, Jesus Christ is born**

"Your Savior Is Born" Words and Music by Rob Howard | "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Words and Music by Traditional Spiritual,
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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

"O Come, Little Children"

Edward Broughton

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord, You have taught us to pray and encouraged us to open our hearts to You on behalf of ourselves and all those in need. Hear us now as we come to You in Jesus' name. You established the earth and the heavens, O Lord, and created us to exercise dominion over all that You made. Grant to us wisdom to know and rejoice in the orders You have established on earth, so that we may be restored to this purpose in Christ and fulfill all the responsibilities that You have assigned us to do in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You have set in place the times and the seasons, O Lord, and reveal in them the salvation promised to us in Your Son. Give us faith that we may ask for no sign except Christ, whose death and resurrection fulfill all the promises of Your Word and vindicate the prophets who spoke that Word by Your command. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You have granted many gifts and skills to Your people, O Lord, that they may serve us when we are most weak and vulnerable. Be with the police who protect us, the firefighters who serve us, those who employ all medical arts to relieve suffering and aid healing, and the counselors who assist those

troubled in mind or heart. Bless every effort on behalf of those who endure man-made or natural disasters. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, You have granted to civil officials and governments the authority to promote order, execute justice, encourage virtue and protect the weak. Bless Donald, our president; Ron, our governor; our state legislators; our county and city leaders; and all judges and magistrates. Help them to hear and heed the wisdom of Your Word and to act with integrity as they fulfill the responsibilities entrusted to them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You are the giver of every good gift, O Lord, and You care for us in all our needs of body, mind and spirit. Give healing to the sick, especially *Kathy Bravis, George Hayes, Cindy Kemp, Tristan Mercier, Mark Stefanos*, and those we name in our hearts, grant relief to the suffering, peace to the dying and comfort to those who mourn. According to Your gracious will, sustain them all by Your grace, and give them patience and courage as they await the unfolding of Your healing grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You have provided us many and rich resources to support this daily life and to use in the care of those in need, O Lord. Grant to us a generous heart, that we may give generously and cheerfully for the sake of Your work, Your Church and the poor as You continue to pour out upon us immeasurably more than we can imagine. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You know our weakness and how we struggle with temptation, O Lord. Give us discerning minds and steadfast hearts, that we may rejoice in the annual celebration of Your Son's birth. Keep us from being distracted from the gift of Your Son, and teach us to highly treasure the mystery of His incarnation and the fruits of His redemptive work. Grant us boldness in these coming days to invite our family, friends and community to join us in our celebration and to experience this same good news that You have come into the world for us. Use us in these days O Lord, to joyfully connect people to You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy to provide us all things as we have need; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.

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

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357; vs. 1,3,5,7


POSTLUDE

"Joy To The World"

arr: Anna Laura Page



*Please join us
in Fellowship Hall for our
Hope Family Christmas Brunch*



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!



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.

Christmas Eve, December 24

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

Connecting Points

TODAY: we conclude the beautiful season of Advent. 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.



SPECIAL THANKS: to the members of our *Christian Growth Ministry Team* for their leadership of **today's** presentation of "Away in a Mango" and to *Ellen Whitehurst, Director and Becky Hartmann, Set Designer.*



JOIN US TODAY: following our morning worship for a special *Christmas Brunch* hosted by our *Christian Growth Ministry Team* in *Fellowship Hall*. AND...following our worship on **December 29th** join us for an early "New Year's Eve" brunch (*please bring a brunch-type dish to share*) ...complete with a non-alcoholic Champaign toast...hosted by our *Fellowship Ministry Team*! Don't forget to...**INVITE A FRIEND!**



IN YOUR MAILBOX TODAY: For those that made commitments to our *Building Hope for the Future* campaign, you will find six green envelopes (with your specific envelope # on them) in your mailbox. As you may need more, please contact the *church office*. Additionally, there are green envelopes in the pew racks (please be sure to write your name and/or envelope # on these envelopes if you would like to receive financial credit).



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.



INVITES ARE HERE: We hope you are thinking of that special person OR persons whom you 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! **TODAY**, Christmas Worship invitations are available in the *Narthex* for you to **SHARE** with family and friends! All you need to remember is 3 simple things... **INVITE! INVITE! INVITE!**





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.



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**.

EARLY DEADLINE:



With the extra load of Christmas bulletins and normal activities of our office, the deadline for announcements to be published in the bulletin of **December 29th**, MUST be submitted to the church office **no later than 10:00am TOMORROW, December 23rd**. Your help and assistance will be greatly APPRECIATED!



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.



WOW! THANK YOU! The response from our Hope family has been AMAZING to our Reverse Advent Calendar for food to assist our *United Food Bank of Plant City*! If you have not returned your full shopping bag, please be sure to bring it back by **next Sunday** so we can help stock the shelves! Once again Hope, you have truly let Jesus be seen in 2019!

2020 FLOWER CHART:



Altar Flowers

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.



CALLING ALL 2020 OFFICERS & MINISTRY TEAMS: Please mark **Sunday, January 5th** on your calendars for your Installation to your positions. This is for all those elected and re-elected at our November Voters Meeting.



WHAT GOES UP...MUST COME DOWN: As much as we hate to think of "undecorating" our sanctuary, we know it will have to be done. SO, many hands will be needed **following Family Bible Hour on Sunday, January 5th** to accomplish this task. The more hands we have, the quicker the work gets done and everything put away.



LIVING HOPE & HOPE STUDIES: will return once again on **Wednesday, January 8th beginning at 6:30PM.** Take the time and opportunity this winter to join us in either worship or Bible Study. You'll be glad you did!



CALLING ALL MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS & OFFICERS: A special meeting for all those serving on Ministry Teams **this coming year** will take place in Fellowship Hall on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 9th from 6:30-8:00PM.** It is important for all those recently elected or re-elected to serve in **2020** plan on joining us. This meeting will take the place of your **January** Ministry Team meeting.



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

GERMANY OPPORTUNITY: There is an opening for a single male to share a room on the *Oberamagau/Danube River Cruise*. If you are interested in joining us for this opportunity in **September 2020**, please see *Pastor or Liz Pfeiffer today!*



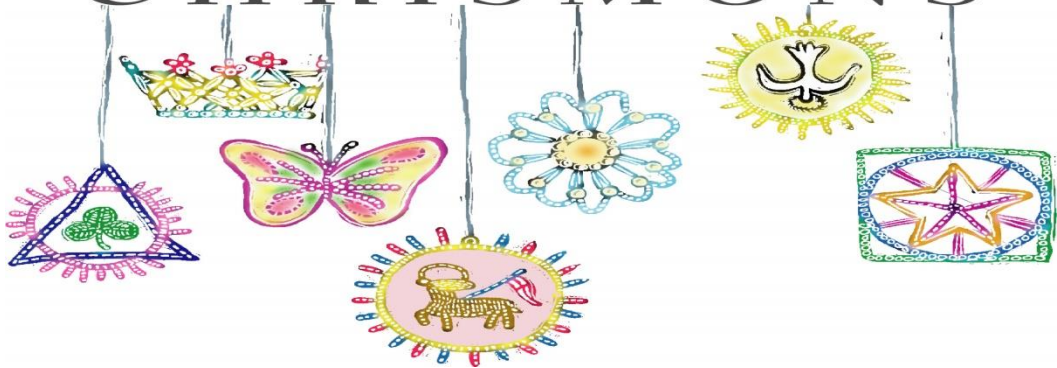
CALL EXTENDED: At a special meeting **last Sunday**, our brothers and sisters at *Christ, Lakeland* extended a Divine Call to Rev. George (Bill) Lowery of Arlington, Texas to serve as their new Pastor. Please keep Pastor Lowery and the family at *Christ, Lakeland* in your prayers during this time.



CHRISTIAN LOVE & SYMPATHY: to the family of *John & Sue Burtz* as they mourn the death of *John's brother Denver in Tennessee* **this past Monday morning.** Please keep the entire family in your thoughts and prayers during this time.



CHRISMONS



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 and 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.



Please join us...

Sunday, December 29

9:15AM—Worship w/Communion

10:30AM—New Year's Brunch

Pot-Bless

Please bring a breakfast-type dish to share.

Hosted by Hope's Fellowship Ministry Team



WINTER Worship SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

9:15AM—Worship

10:30AM—Family Bible Hour

4:00PM—Spanish Worship

WEDNESDAYS

6:30PM—Living Hope Worship

6:30PM—Hope Studies

6:30PM—Youth Group

But an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.
What did the angel say?

Unscramble the words to read the answer.



“Joseph son of David,

do not be dfaari to etka

Mary oemh as oyru iweh.

The abby inside her is from the oHyl

Spirit. She liwl vgei hbtri

to a sno, and you are ot vgei

miH the mnea Jesus, because

He will vase His people

from their isns.”



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

SHUT-INS:

Jim Baldwin
Diane Bates
Putt Crouse

Sue Crouse
Bonnie Genrich

Liz Miller
Mark Stefanos

LEADERS:

Rev. Dean & Liz Pfeffer
Rev. Shea & Holly Pennington
LCMS Synod & District
Hope Staff

Hope's Ministries
Our Armed Forces
Our Nation
Our 1st Responders

Family and Friends of Hope

NEW REQUESTS:

John Burtz family	mourning death of John's brother, Denver
Mary Clapp	mother of Donna Koren—health concerns
Kevin Kinder	father of Keaira Griffin's friend—back surgery complications
Mark Stefanos	hospitalized; health concerns

CURRENT REQUESTS:

Lawrence Bailey	brother-in-law of Alan & Sue Griffin—hip surgery
Kathy Bravis	recovering from back surgery
Debbie	sister of Beverly Pirhonen—cancer; recovering from surgery
Cindy Kemp	healing
John Gravlee family	family friend of Mack & Sheila Goethe—mourning his death
Mosser family	friends of Keaira Griffin—mourning sudden death of mom/grandma
Mayra Nieves	mother of Keaira Griffin's friend—health concerns; anticipating new treatment plan
Billy Passmore	friend of Pastor & Liz Pfeffer—4-wheel accident; broken ribs & lacerated spleen
Mary Scott	friend of Beverly Pirhonen—health concerns; anticipating surgery
Donna Simmons	beginning chemo treatments
Betty Snaper	friend of Mac & Sheila Goethe—lymphoma testing

BATTLING CANCER:

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

Serving in the Military (R—Reserves)

Zachary Allen	Lonnie 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 (12/22/2019) ARE:

Elder on Duty	9:15/Nick Trivunovich
Flowers	Tennyson family
Offerings	Alison Reaume & Cathie Warner
Ushers	Team 2: 10:30/Nick Trivunovich,* Alex Drapp, Jim Drapp, Ken Hartmann

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by
James & Laurretta Tennyson in honor of their wedding anniversary*

SERVING OUR LORD THIS CHRISTMAS EVE (12/24/2019) ARE:

Bell Ringer	6:30/Alex Attalla; 10:30/Jalyn Aigner
Crucifer	6:30/Lana Hartmann; 10:30/Yulia Hartmann
Torch Bearers	6:30/Yulia Hartmann & Tristan Mercier; 10:30/Keaira Griffin & Lana Hartmann
Acolyte	6:30/Kaylee Greatens; 10:30/Abby Kelly
Lector	6:30/Tena Matthews; 10:30/Gloria Warner
Elder on Duty	6:30/Jim Carnicelli; 10:30/Todd Warner
Communion Assistants	10:30/Todd Warner & Wayne Warner
Flowers	D. Pfeffer family
Offerings	Alison Reaume & Cathie Warner
Ushers	Team 1: 10:30/Todd Warner,* Mack Goethe, Billy Mueller, Dora Mueller, Jim Szostkiewicz

SERVING OUR LORD THIS CHRISTMAS (12/25/2019) ARE:

Lector	10:30/John Koren
Elder on Duty	10:30/Mike McMinn
Communion Assistant	10:30/ Mike McMinn
Flowers	D. Pfeffer family
Offerings	Alison Reaume & Cathie Warner
Ushers	Team 2: 10:30/Nick Trivunovich,* Alex Drapp, Jim Drapp, Ken Hartmann

SERVING OUR LORD NEXT SUNDAY (12/29/2019) ARE:

Bell Ringer	9:15/Grace Kelly
Acolyte	9:15/Nathan Gall
Lector	9:15/Holly Drapp
Elder on Duty	9:15/Brian Heipp
Communion Assistant	9:15/Brian Heipp
Flowers	Schmidt family
Offerings	Dale & Jonie Wenzel
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)