



# 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:*

<b>Sunday 1/5</b>	<b>Winter Break, Hillsborough County Public Schools (Dec. 23-Jan. 6)</b>
9:15	Worship w/Communion & Installation of 2020 Officers & Ministry Teams
10:30	Family Bible Hour
11:30	Un-decorating @ Hope
4:00	Spanish Worship w/Communion
4:30	Circuit Pastors Epiphany Party
<b>Monday 1/6</b>	<b>Winter Break, Hillsborough County Public Schools (Dec. 23-Jan. 6)</b>
9:00	Quilting
5:30	Bell Choir
6:30	Choir
<b>Tuesday 1/7</b>	12:00 Staff Meeting & Lunch
	6:00 Building Committee Meeting
<b>Wednesday 1/8</b>	6:30 Living Hope Worship w/Communion
	6:30 Hope Studies & Youth Group
<b>Thursday 1/9</b>	10:30 Bible Study
	6:30 ALL Ministry Teams Meeting
<b>Saturday 1/11</b>	10:00 Confirmation class
<b>Sunday 1/12</b>	<b>Youth Scrip Orders Due   One Blood @ Hope</b>
9:15	Worship
10:15	Blood Pressure Screenings
10:30	Family Bible Hour
4:00	Spanish Worship w/Communion

*Worship Attendance / Communion:*

**Sunday, December 29, 2019:**

**Worship: 9:15: 117/108**

**Spanish Worship: 4:00: 19/9**

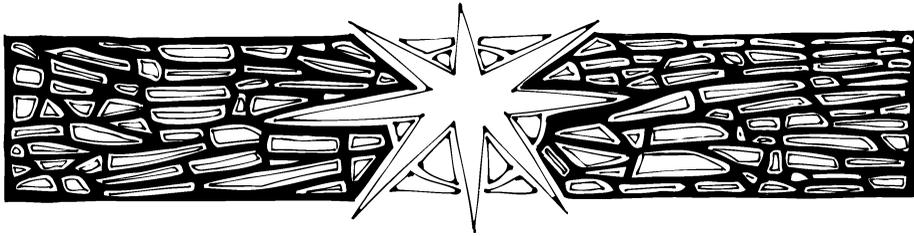
**Offerings—General Fund: \$6,381.02**

*Stewardship Perspective:*

**Luke 2:49 – “And he said to them, ‘Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?’ ”** What a privilege the Lord has given to us by calling us to come to His house! It is not a burden but rather an honor and a blessing for us to always be able to come to a place where we know God is present for us in His gifts of Word and Sacrament. Likewise, the Lord has honored us by allowing us to support the work of His house with our tithes and offerings.

*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!*

# THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



January 5, 2020

## **AS WE GATHER**

*Throughout the ages, the Gospel story of Christ has been shared in spoken, written, and sung words. Each season of the Church Year is blessed by those sacred words. The Epiphany season recalls a journey by Magi to visit and worship the infant Jesus and to bring Him gifts. This day we have made a journey to this place to do the same. With the Magi of old we share the wonder of the Epiphany, as God with us—Immanuel—is shown forth.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **RINGING OF THE BELLS**

## **PRELUDE AND MEDITATION**

*"What Child Is This? w/Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child" arr: Mary McDonald  
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**

*"Epiphany Carol"*

*(tune: "We Three Kings")*

**Gifts to Jesus gratefully bring! Songs for Jesus lovingly sing!  
God among us Born to save us! Hail Him as Lord and King!**

*(Refrain)* **Oh! By the wonder of His birth, Jesus is God's gift to earth!  
May our living And our giving Witness to the Savior's worth!**

**Gifts of gold His Kingship endow. All the earth before Him shall bow—  
Kneel before Him And adore Him! Worship His glory now! (Refrain)**

**Frankincense His deity owns— Fragrance chosen for God alone.  
Prayers ascending! Praises blending! Bring Him the best gifts known!  
(Refrain)**

**Myrrh to ease the burden of pain— Precious gift to soothe and sustain.  
Balm as blessing, Faith confessing. Sing out hope's glad refrain. (Refrain)**

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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:** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

**C:** **the light no darkness can overcome.**

**P:** In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

**C:** **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it. The true Light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

**P:** Let us make confession to God our Father, source of light and love, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth receives His blessings and gifts. Assured of His great mercy, let us acknowledge together that we, by our heedless thoughts, careless words, and loveless deeds have sinned against our gracious God and deserve His punishment now and eternally.

**C:** **Almighty God, we know that we are by nature sinful and that daily our lives transgress Your Law. We repent of our sins in thought and in word and in deed. Be merciful to us and for the sake of Jesus grant us Your forgiveness so that, as Your redeemed people, we walk in Your light and with renewed spirits serve You in time and in eternity.**

**P:** In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Out of His glorious riches, the Lord strengthen you with power through his Spirit that Christ shall dwell in your hearts through faith.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**

*"What Child Is This"*

*LSB 370*

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?**

**Whom angels greet with anthems sweet**

**While shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king,**

**Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;**

**Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?**

**Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.**

**Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,**

**The cross be borne for me, for you;**

**Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.**

**The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.**

**Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;**

**Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!**

Text: Public domain

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles.

**C:** **Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence;**

**P:** through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,

**C:** **who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,**

**P:** one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**



## ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 60:1-6 (p.619)*

*(The glory of the Lord is shown forth in light.)*

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. <sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### EPISTLE

*Ephesians 3:1-12 (p.977)*

*(Jesus is God's gift for all people, both Jews and Gentiles.)*

<sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSE

*"As with Gladness Men of Old"*

*LSB 397; vs. 1, 3, 5*



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,  
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;  
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.  
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.  
There for-ev-er may we sing Al-lu-ias to our King.

Tune and text: Public domain

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 2:1–12 (p.807)*

*(The Magi visit the infant Jesus.)*

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

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

AP: Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying,

C: **"Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him."**

AP: When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him:

C: **"In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:**

SP: "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

AP: Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,

SP: "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him."

AP: After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.

**C:** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

**AP:** And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**P:** This is the Gospel of our Lord!

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" LSB 395; vs. 1, 4, 6



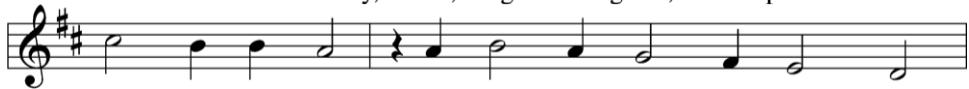
1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's  
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in Your Son You loved us when  
6 What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love



own truth and light, A - glow with grace and mer - cy!  
not yet be - gun Was this old earth's foun - da - tion!  
is first and last, The end and the be - gin - ning!



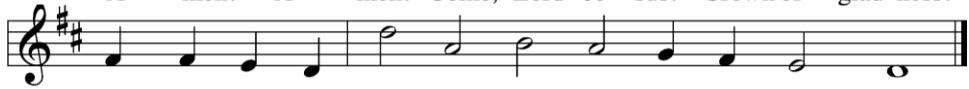
Of Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's son, Our Lord and mas -  
Your Son has ran - somed us in love To live in Him  
He will one day, oh, glo - rious grace, Trans - port us to



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on - ly!  
here and a - bove: This is Your great sal - va - tion.  
that hap - py place Be - yond all tears and sin - ning!



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, All vic - to - rious,  
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, To us giv - ing  
A - men! A - men! Come, Lord Je - sus! Crown of glad - ness!



Rich in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!  
Life for - ev - er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev - er!  
We are yearn - ing For the day of Your re - turn - ing!

## SERMON

"Epiphany People"  
Rev. Dean Pfeffer

Isaiah 60:1 & Matthew 2:12

## CATECHISM

*The Second Article*

P: With the Church around the world, we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed, which was formed as the Church expanded to Gentile lands, such as were represented by the Magi who visited the Christ Child. Today we confess the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and speak together the section of Luther's Small Catechism that explains it.

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: What does this mean?

**C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.**

**This is most certainly true.**

## 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.**

## INSTALLATION OF 2020 OFFICERS AND MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS

## 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

*"Gesù Bambino"*

*Pietro A. Yon*

## PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**P:** In Your mercy, Lord, hear the prayers of Your people and grant to us all things needful and beneficial, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. For the Church, the people of His promise, to whom He has revealed His Son as Savior and Redeemer, that we may enjoy the gift of good and faithful ministers, and that the Lord may prosper the Word and bring to fruition the proclamation of Your Word in every place and time, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For the nation and our leaders, that the Lord may grant them wisdom in their pursuit of justice, and for the cause of peace in the world and relief for those who suffer oppression, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For the renewal of our fellowship as the Body of Christ, for families, for husbands and wives, for those desiring to be married, for the single who desire marriage, and for the lonely who yearn to know the comfort of friendship and family, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For the sick and those who suffer, that the Lord may grant them healing in accordance with His will, and for those who give aid and care to the sick especially *Kathy Bravis and Tristan Mercier*, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For our communion this day upon the body and blood of Christ, that we may receive this Sacrament with faith and be strengthened by it, and that the Lord may soon bring unity of faith and doctrine so that all divisions may cease and we may be fully one at the altar, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For grateful hearts, that we may receive the Lord's gifts with joy and use them wisely and for His glory; and for grace, that our worship may be pleasing in the Lord's sight, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the Holy Spirit to increase our joy and sustain us in this joy and thanksgiving throughout the days of this Christmas season, until that day when at last the Lord returns in His glory as lord and judge of all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Recalling God's goodness in ages past and living in hope and anticipation of that day when He shall come again in His glory, let us bring these prayers to His throne of grace 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**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right...praising you and singing:

## **SANCTUS**

*(tune: LSB 397)*

**Holy, holy, holy, sing To the heav'nly armies' King.  
For His glory, might, and worth Fill the heavens, fill the earth.  
Holy, holy, holy cry To the Lord of hosts most high.**

**Hail, Hosanna, David's Son! Blessed is the One who comes  
In the name of God the Lord, Name of blessings rich outpoured.  
Hail, Hosanna, save us now, Holy, holy God of pow'r.**

## **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.*

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

*(tune: LSB 344)*

**O Lamb of God, who takes away The whole world's sin, now hear us pray:  
Have mercy on us, grant us peace, From all our sins give us release.**

*(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: <sup>1</sup>Are baptized AND instructed in the Christian faith; <sup>2</sup>Examine themselves in a manner appropriate to adult maturity and recognize their own need for forgiveness; <sup>3</sup>Believe that the Crucified and Risen Lord is truly present in, with and under the bread and wine; <sup>4</sup>Believe that in this sacrament God gives us forgiveness of sins and strengthening of faith; <sup>5</sup>Accept 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 Star Proclaims the King Is Here"* *LSB 399*

*"The People That in Darkness Sat"* *LSB 412*

## **HYMN**

*"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"* *LSB 643; v. 1*

**Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling take leave. The Supper is ended.  
O now be extended The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us,  
His love shall unite us To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.**

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## **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 on 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 SONG**

*"Shine, Jesus, Shine"*

*WOV 651*

*(Refrain)* **Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with love and mercy;  
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!**

Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,  
set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me: *(Refrain)*

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,  
so our faces display your likeness,  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
mirrored here may our live tell your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me: *(Refrain)*

"Shine, Jesus, Shine", Graham Kendrick, © 1987 Make Way Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) All rights reserved. CCLI License # 759305

**POSTLUDE**

*"Three Kings"*

*Patricia Lou Harris*



Help us *UN*-deck the halls  
TODAY at 11:30am!



Special Congregational Meeting  
January 19<sup>th</sup>  
10:30AM following Worship  
in the Sanctuary

# *2020 Congregational Officers & Ministry Team Members*

PRESIDENT – Ken Hartmann  
VICE PRESIDENT – Wendell Lattz  
SECRETARY – Liz Pfeffer  
TREASURER – Dodie Walker  
ASSISTANT TREASURER – Daniel Pfeffer  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY – Alison Reaume  
PAST PRESIDENT – David Booher

## **ELDERS**

Lonnie Bertsch  
Jim Carnicelli  
Jim Drapp  
Brian Heipp  
Mike McMinn  
Tom Reagin  
Nick Trivunovich  
Todd Warner  
Wayne Warner

## **CHRISTIAN GROWTH & DISCIPLESHIP**

Alex Drapp  
Kathy Drapp  
Yulia Hartmann  
Tracy MacDonald  
Tena Matthews  
Holly Pennington  
Jesilynn Pfeffer  
Theresa Smith  
Meghan Trivunovich  
Nora Trivunovich

## **MISSIONS & OUTREACH**

Diane Bertsch  
Jerrie Edelman  
Mary Jo Flamm  
Michele Floyd  
George Hayes  
Willa McMinn  
Cathie Warner

## **STEWARDSHIP & HUMAN CARE**

Connie Harsh  
Larry Harsh  
Sandy Howell  
Pam Lattz  
Mary Lou Nash  
Jonie Wenzel

## **YOUTH**

Michael Greatens  
Stacey Greatens  
Becky Hartmann  
Roxanne Kelly  
Lynn Reagin  
April Walkenhorst

## **FELLOWSHIP**

Amy Gall  
Theresa Justice  
Kristin Mercier  
Kathy Norris  
Mary Ann Paris  
Carol Walkenhorst

## **HEALTH**

Beverly Mane  
Janet Reitzel  
Joyce Van Matre

## **TRUSTEES**

John Burtz  
Tom Ellison  
Greg Gall  
Stuart Howell  
Glenn Miller  
Jeff Reaume  
Jim Szostkiewicz  
Dale Wen

# Growing in the Grace of Giving

Our God is a God who works through means. He can and has worked immediately without agency, as the Bible testifies, but primarily, on the whole and for the most part, our God works through means. He does this not only for all of our earthly needs but also for all of our spiritual needs. And He does this for our benefit.

He provides for all our needs of this body and life through means. He gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.

He gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger; He gives us faithful neighbors and good friends to help in times of need and lack. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so that we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so that we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, redounds to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior. In that body, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all – a life we have failed to live because of our sins – and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to proclaim, in His stead and by His command, that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Through these same pastors, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word, igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And He gives us His life-giving body and blood to nourish us in this same faith until the end. Our God is a God who works through means.

This is true also of stewardship. This is what St. Paul wrote in Philippians:

“I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:18–19).

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus Christ],” St. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 1:20. This is true also of you. Trust in the God who provides for all that we need in body and soul through means. And not only will you find His “yes” to you, but others will find it, too, through you. “But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also” (2 Cor. 8:7).

# Connecting Points



**TODAY:** we mark the Epiphany of our Lord. We celebrate our Lord's Epiphany on the **Sunday closest to January 6<sup>th</sup>** (12<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas). Epiphany means to reveal or make known and today we mark our Lord being made known/revealed to the Magi from the East, the first Gentiles to see the newborn King of the Jews. The color of the day is WHITE~ the color of purity of Him who is full of grace and truth.

**OUR 2020 OFFICERS & MINISTRY TEAMS:** will be installed into their elected/re-elected positions **during our worship this morning**. There is a complete listing of all those serving our congregation in your bulletin **this morning**. As they have all given of their time and talents to lead us in the coming year, please keep them in your prayers for God's Spirit to be upon them, to lead, guide and direct as together we move forward.



**JANUARY DOLDRUMS?:** *Not here at Hope!* Check your mailbox for your **January** calendar and servant schedule. Also, in your mailbox is your next issue of *Portals of Prayer*. Additional copies for you to share are located in the *Narthex*.



**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 TODAY** to accomplish this task. The more hands we have, the quicker the work gets done and everything put away.



**THANK YOU:** to all our musicians (players, singers, and ringers) for all your extra work and ministry you provided to all who entered this place **throughout Advent and Christmas**. We are blessed as you use your God given gifts in His ministry!



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

**THIS JUST IN:** We have been informed by *Mary Heysek, Director of our United Food Bank of Plant City*, that the total weight for our Advent Food Bags came to just over 1,250 pounds!

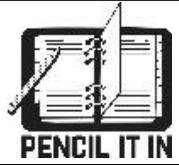


**A FRIENDLY REMINDER:** All announcements for our **Sunday** bulletins are due to *Jessica* ([hopepcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:hopepcsecretary@gmail.com)) **by NOON, TUESDAYS**. In order to prepare bulletins in a timely manner, this deadline is required.

**LIVING HOPE & HOPE STUDIES:** will return **THIS WEDNESDAY 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 **THIS THURSDAY 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.



**CONCORIDA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN WOODWIND ENSAMBLE:** will be performing at *St. Paul's, Lakeland (4450 Hardin Blvd)* on **January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM.** Take the time and opportunity to hear these amazing students!



**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.



**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](http://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.



**Begins TUESDAY, January 14, 2020 at 10:30AM & 6:30PM**

**Hope's Stephen Ministry Classroom—All are welcome!**

**Contact Lyn Senkarik at 863-670-4866 for more info.**

**GRIEF SHARE<sup>®</sup>**

Help and encouragement after the death of  
a spouse, child, family member, or friend.

# ***ANTIQUE CAR SHOW***

**Christ Lutheran Church**

**2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd**

**Saturday, January 18, 2020**

**9A – 1:30P**

A photograph of an antique car show. In the foreground, a man in a white shirt and blue jeans stands between a light blue classic convertible and a dark red classic sedan. The blue car has its hood open. In the background, other vintage cars and people are visible under a clear blue sky with palm trees.

**Door prizes - Food – Fun - Music**

**No Fee - 3 Car Awards**

**Proceeds donated - Senior Orphans**

# 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*



# WEDNESDAYS AT HOPE, 6:30PM

## LIVING HOPE WORSHIP

Our Wednesday evening worship continues this winter as we celebrate the goodness and mercy of our God in an alternative worship format and style. Holy Communion is celebrated each Wednesday. Join us for a relaxed, celebrative worship alternative!

## HOPE STUDIES—THE GOSPEL OF MARK

The Gospel of Mark was the last Gospel written. Mark's purpose was to show the readers of this Gospel that Jesus Christ was the man who is the Son of God, sent by the Father to take our place and secure our salvation. Mark was Peter's assistant and traveled at times with Paul. His Gospel is a book of action that rapidly proceeds from one incident to another. Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in the conference room for study, conversation, and inspiration. *Leader: John Koren*





## 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**

## **YOUTH DATES**

January 8—Youth Group, 6:30pm

January 15—Youth-led Worship, 6:30pm

January 22—Youth Group, 6:30pm

January 24-26—Rock the Universe, Orlando

January 29—Youth Group, 6:30pm

*Grades 6 through 12—friends are always welcome!*

*Contact Pastor Shea for more info: [hopepcpastorshea@gmail.com](mailto:hopepcpastorshea@gmail.com)*

# *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 1<sup>st</sup> Responders

## *Family and Friends of Hope*

### **NEW REQUESTS:**

Judy Comiskey & family	friend of Griffin & Trivunovich families—mourning sudden death of Judy's sister
Donna DeClaire	sister of Dora Mueller—anticipating knee replacement surgery (1/14)
Tim Gates	husband of Julie Gates—recovering from stroke
Faye Mueller	sister of Billy Mueller—anticipating surgery; facial cancer & eye removal (1/8)
Betty Snaper	sister of Mack Goethe—cancer

### **CURRENT REQUESTS:**

John Burtz family	mourning death of John's brother, Denver
Mary Clapp	mother of Donna Koren—health concerns
Cindy Kemp	healing
Tyler Newkirk	grandson of Mary Ann Paris—army national guard; recovering from appendectomy
Beverly Pirhonen	guidance
	mother of Beverly Pirhonen—health concerns
Mary Scott	friend of Beverly Pirhonen—health concerns
Donna Simmons	beginning chemo treatments

### **BATTLING CANCER:**

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

## *Serving in the Military* (R—Reserves)

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

*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 (1/5/2020) ARE:**

Bell Ringer	9:15/Jackson Venrick
Acolyte	9:15/Abby Kelly
Lector	9:15/Cindy Kemp
Elder on Duty	9:15/Tom Reagin
Communion Assistant	9:15/Tom Reagin
Flowers	OPEN
Offerings	Ed & Mary Beth Sanchez
Ushers	Team 1

8:00/Wayne Warner,\* David Booher, David Niver, Jeff Reaume

**SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEDNESDAY (1/8/2020) ARE:**

Lector	6:30/Carl Bergner
Elder on Duty	6:30/Todd Warner
Communion Assistant	6:30/Todd Warner

**SERVING OUR LORD NEXT SUNDAY (1/12/2020) ARE:**

Bell Ringer	9:15/Abby Aigner
Lector	9:15/Dane Petersen
Elder on Duty	9:15/Jim Carnicelli
Flowers	Sanchez family
Offerings	Alan & Sue Griffin
Ushers	Team 2

8:00/Tom Whitehurst,\* Carl Bergner, Harold Hastings

**SERVING OUR LORD THIS MONTH OF JANUARY:**

Altar Guild	Cindy Petersen
Nurse	Janet Reitzel (419-467-1608)