



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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WEEKLY NEWS ✠ May 17, 2020

✠ IN THE LORD'S HOUSE TODAY ✠

OBVIOUSLY, we are not in the Lord's House today due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, voluntarily taking measures to slow its spread, and the local government stay-at-home orders. Nevertheless, we are making the Service of the Word available on Hope's [Facebook page](#), beginning at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings. Only a pre-selected group of ten people, or less, are allowed to be in the church on Sunday mornings. By advice and encouragement from the Missouri District office, we are no longer offering times for the Service of the Sacrament during this crisis. However, we continue to find comfort, peace, and strength in our Lord's other means of grace—His Word, Baptism, and Absolution.

✠ THE WORD FOR TODAY ✠

THE FATHER ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS BECAUSE OF JESUS

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you" (John 16:23). To pray in Jesus' name is to pray as one who has been baptized. For it is in the water that He put His name upon you, claiming you as His own, making you a son of God with access to the Father. By His incarnation and crucifixion, our Lord Jesus broke through the barrier of sin which separated us from God, opening a portal to the Father. To pray in Jesus' name is to pray with faith in Him as the one Mediator between God and men, who gave Himself a ransom for all (1 Tim. 2:1-6). Like Moses in the wilderness, Jesus is our go-between and intercessor before the throne of heaven. He was lifted up for us on the cross that we might be saved and restored to fellowship with the Father (Num. 21:4-9). Looking into this perfect teaching of liberty (James 1:22-27) we pray with boldness and confidence as dear children of God.

✠ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ✠

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS (LSB 770)

Today we depart from a summary of the Hymn of the Day to look more closely at our opening hymn. *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* is a hymn some people love and others love to hate. With today's Scripture reading focus on prayer stanza two serves as a resound reminder to "Take it to the Lord in prayer." The following comes from the *Lutheran Service Book Companion to the Hymns* in an essay by Bruce Keseman,

Consider just a few of the Scripture verses on which this hymn builds: "Ask, and it will be given to you" (Matthew 7:7); "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me" (Psalm 50:15); and "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). As Martin Luther explains in his Small Catechism, "God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father."

✠ PREPARING FOR WORSHIP ✠

- *PREPARE* to receive the Lord's Supper by reviewing "Christian Questions and Their Answers" beginning on 329 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- *REFLECT* on Psalm 107 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- *PONDER* today's Hymn of the Day, *LSB 766, "Our Father, Who From Heaven Above"*

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated at each Sunday morning Divine Service, with both chalice and individual cup offered. Members of congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod may partake of the Sacrament trusting that in this Holy Meal the Lord Jesus Christ is present and gives His Body and Blood for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. Guests are asked to speak with the pastor prior to communing. Those who have a health concern with the alcohol in the cup are asked to speak with the pastor. If you are taking Communion, please fill out the attendance card by marking an "X" in the box by the names of those communing, and hand the card to an usher as you go to the Lord's Table.

✠ SCRIPTURE READINGS TO PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY ✠

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (May 24, 2020) -

Hear O Lord, when I cry with my voice! (Exaudi)

Old Testament: **Ezekiel 36:22-28**—God creates new heart and spirit in us.

Psalm: **Psalm 51**—"Create in me a clean heart, O God"

Epistle: **1 Peter 4:7-14**—Sober living.

Holy Gospel: **John 15:26-16:4**—Jesus promises to send the Spirit of Truth.

✠ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✠

GREAT NEWS! In keeping with the new City of St. Louis “Reopening Standards and Guidelines,” we will resume in-person public worship at Hope with proper hygienic and social-distancing measures. Our first in-person Divine Service will be this **Thursday, May 21, at 7:00 pm** as we celebrate The Ascension of Our Lord. Beginning **Sunday, May 24**, we will offer two Divine Service times – **9:00 am and 11:00 am**. We plan this schedule to run four (4) weeks, but it may be revised. For more details, see the [Pastoral Letter](#) on our [website](#).

CONGRATULATIONS to Seminarian Ahren Reiter on receiving the Divine Call to serve as pastor in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod! Ahren will serve at [Holy Cross Lutheran Church](#) in Lawton, Oklahoma. Congratulations also go to Hope member Anna Barger as she will serve her deaconess internship at [Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society](#) in Hartland, Michigan. We pray God’s blessing upon the Reiter family and the Barger family in their transitions and new endeavors.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, May 17: James 1:22 – **“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”** The Word of God is not merely to be heard, but to be received and believed. Our faith is implanted and strengthened by the Word of God. And as Luther said, “Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so, it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly.” James reminds us of this – and encourages us to examine our lives and come to repentance where we can see that we are not living out our faith in sincerity.

KFUO Radio, AM850 & kfu.org, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you on AM850 & kfu.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at [kfu.org](#) and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

ROMANS BIBLE STUDY...LCMS Pastor Will Weedon begins a Bible study on the Book of Romans. *The Word of the Lord Endures Forever* is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. You can listen at your convenience at [thewordendures.org](#), on your favorite podcast provider and on the LPR mobile app.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week’s topics include: The Netflix Documentary “Tiger King,” The Ascension of Christ, The Book of Hebrews, The Bodily Resurrection in the Old Testament, “Gentleness” in the Bible, and more. You can tune in live weekdays from 3-5 p.m. on KFUE, 850 AM in St. Louis. You can also listen at your convenience at [issuesetc.org](#) and on the LPR mobile app.

YOU CAN LISTEN to Lutheran talk and music anytime, anywhere using the **Lutheran Public Radio** mobile app. [Click here](#) to download for iPhone, Android and Kindle. Thanks for listening!

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✠ Month of April, 2020

	FINANCIAL				
ATTENDANCE	April		Year-to-Date		
Hearers: Communion:	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	
	Income:	\$25,702	\$23,577	Income: \$91,901	\$94,308
	Expense:	\$18,508	\$23,580	Expense: \$77,538	\$94,320

THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✠ May 17, 2020

SCHEDULE	SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS	WEEK’S CALENDAR
<p>9:00 SERVICE OF THE WORD</p> <p>Live stream at www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl</p> <p>NO Sunday School/Bible Study</p> <p>NO Schola Rehearsal</p> <p>NO Youth Catechism Class</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Nursery:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">2nd Floor –</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Auditorium:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bible Class-</p>	<p>MONDAY</p> <hr/> <p>TUESDAY</p> <p><i>NO Kantorei</i></p> <hr/> <p>WEDNESDAY</p> <hr/> <p>THURSDAY</p> <p>7:00 Ascension Divine Service</p> <hr/> <p>FRIDAY</p> <hr/> <p>SATURDAY</p> <p><i>Pastor’s Day Off</i></p>