



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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WEEKLY NEWS ❖ November 22, 2020

❖ IN THE LORD'S HOUSE TODAY ❖

WELCOME! We are happy that you are worshipping with us. As Psalm 122:1 says, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" Here in the Lord's House our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in His Word and Sacrament to give us His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We continue to follow appropriate social distancing and hygienic protocols as noted in the service folder. The Sunday Divine Service is also being live-streamed on Hope's [Facebook page](#) and the service folder (bulletin) may be [accessed here](#). "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever" (Psalm 136:1).

❖ THE WORD FOR TODAY ❖

BY FAITH WE ARE PREPARED FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

"The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:1-11). The arrival of the bridegroom will be sudden and unexpected. Therefore you are to be watchful and ready like the five wise virgins. "For you know neither the day nor the hour" when the Son of Man is to return. (Matt. 25:1-13). The lamps are the Word of Christ. The oil in the lamps is the Holy Spirit, who works through the Word to create and sustain the flame of faith in Christ. The foolish are those who do not give proper attention to the working of the Holy Spirit in baptism, preaching, and the supper, and so their faith does not endure. The wise, however, are those who diligently attend to these gifts of the Spirit, and who therefore have an abundance of oil. The flame of faith endures to the end. By God's grace they are received into the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth created by the Lord for the joy of His people (Is. 65:17-25).

❖ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ❖

WAKE, AWAKE, FOR NIGHT IS FLYING (LSB 516)

Wake, Awake, for Night, written by the Lutheran Pastor Phillip Nicolai (1599), is referred to as the King of the Chorales. Outside of its outstanding confession concerning the coming Christ it entails some beautiful hidden gems. Each verse is written in the shape of a chalice, alluding to the Christ and the host of heaven we now participate with in the Lord's Supper. The German original contains three initials at the beginning of each verse - vs. 1 - W, 2 - Z, and 3 - G. These belonged to Count Wilhelm Ernst a student of Nicolai's who died a year before. Its specific occasion for writing was a horrible plague that claimed thousands with as many as thirty people being buried each day. Their committals were said to be in the view of Nicolai's from his office window. Thus it serves as a comfort to the dying and their families, causing it to be appropriately heard not only at weddings but also funerals. It is based primarily on Matthew 25; the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. Earlier translations both in *TLH* and *LW* missed the reference to the Lord's Supper in verse two (Das Abendmahl). *LSB* has rightly restored it. The hymn makes the text seen to its hearers and from leads one from the beckoning of the Word of God to the Supper to full participation with Christ and all the saints in heaven. (from logia.org)

❖ 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 149 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- **PONDER** today's Hymn of the Day, "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"

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 ❖

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT - "To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul" (November 29, 2020)

- Old Testament: **Jeremiah 23:5-8**—God promises to send a King known as "The Lord Our Righteousness."
- Psalm: **Psalm 24**—"The earth is the LORD's, and all it's fullness." "The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory."
- Epistle: **Romans 13:8-14**—Our salvation is nearer now. Therefore, let us live life soberly and watchfully.
- Holy Gospel: **Matthew 21:1-9**—Our King comes humble and riding on a donkey. He comes to save us by dying on a cross!

✠ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✠

IN KEEPING WITH THE ST. LOUIS CITY "REOPENING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES," we are conducting in-person public worship with proper hygienic and social-distancing measures. Effective Sunday, September 13, we resume our regular Sunday morning schedule to include Sunday School, Bible Class, and Catechism Class. We are also offering a second Divine Service opportunity on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm, beginning September 16. For more details, see the most recent (7/29/20) [Pastoral Letter](#) on our [website](#).

FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR are placed to the praise and glory of God by Keri and Matthew Janssen in honor of his birthday today, November 22.

POINSETTIA PLANTS will be placed in the altar area during the Christmas season. If you wish to place a plant in honor or memory of someone, please pick up an envelope from the narthex or call Carol, 752-0525 or 691-3619, **before December 15**. Poinsettias are \$6.00 each and are yours to take home anytime during the Christmas season.

GIVING TREE: Please check out the Giving Tree in the church Narthex. Take a card (or two) off the tree. Each card has a gift suggestion written on it. Gifts must be returned by December 13. Do not wrap the gifts, as they will be given to the mothers for wrapping. Make sure the gift card is attached to the gift.

COPIES OF THE MINUTES OF THE 11/1/2020 VOTERS ASSEMBLY, including a report from the treasurer, are available in the narthex for all who would like a copy.

THE CHURCH IS WANTING TO SEND CARE PACKAGES to the military we are praying for but we need their addresses to do that. If you have or know the address for the following, please call the church office, 352-0014, and give them their address. Looking for: Rick Bernsten; Ryan Berkel; Jacob Shubert; and Keith Woodcock.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22: **Matthew 25:4** - "... but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps." Why did they take flasks of oil with them? Because they listened to the bridegroom's words and believed what He told them. Our actions always start with and flow from our beliefs. What do your actions in the realm of financial stewardship say about what you believe?

MORE TOPICS, MORE GUESTS, MORE JESUS... 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 teachings include: Thanksgiving in the Bible; The Lord's Prayer Petition "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread;" God Condoning War & Killing in the Old Testament; The Book of 2 Peter 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, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✠ November 1-14, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Sunday: 54
Wednesday: 11

FINANCIAL

November 1-14

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Income:	\$13,327	\$11,002
Expense:	\$3,042	\$11,001

Year-to-Date

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Income:	\$231,683.50	\$235,767
Expense:	\$211,932.34	\$235,769

THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✠ November 22, 2020

SCHEDULE

9:00 DIVINE SERVICE
Live stream at
www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl
10:30 – Sunday School/Bible Study

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS

Nursery:
2nd Floor –
Sanctuary:
Bible Class
*"Making Critical Decisions as a
Congregation" – Pastor Kevin Robson*

WEEK'S CALENDAR

MONDAY

TUESDAY

4:00 pm Youth Catechism (Zoom)

WEDNESDAY

7:00 pm Divine Service

THURSDAY

Thanksgiving Day- 9:30 Matins
Church office closed

FRIDAY

Church office closed

SATURDAY

Pastor's Day Off