



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

5218 Neosho St, St. Louis, MO 63109 • 314-352-0014

www.hopelutheranstl.org



WEEKLY NEWS ❖ December 2, 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 ❖

THE LORD COMES ON THE LAST DAY

The day on which our Lord returns will be a "great and awesome day" (Mal. 4:5). For He will come in a cloud with great power and glory. To the wicked and the proud, it will be a Day of judgment that will "set them ablaze" (Mal. 4:1). The signs preceding this Day will bring them fear and fainting. But to those who believe, who fear the name of the Lord, this Day is one to look forward to and rejoice in: "...straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28). Christ our Redeemer is coming; the Sun of Righteousness will bring healing in His wings. Let us, then, give attention to the words of the Lord, which do not pass away. Let us "through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures" (Rom. 15:4) be strengthened in our hope by the Holy Spirit and watch diligently for Jesus' coming. Then, by God's grace, we shall escape all these things that will come to pass and stand before the Son of Man.

❖ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ❖

LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING (LSB 336)

Charles Wesley saw that, according to Luther, music teaches the faith and imprints it strongly upon the heart. So he did in this hymn. The tune does what the text declares. As the music descends so the text confesses "...with clouds descending." As the congregation and musicians swell so we sing "Swell the triumph of His train, Alleluia..." The hymn primarily pictures through song the words of Revelation 1:7: "Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen." Some slight editing has taken place from Wesley's original which shows theological difference between the Methodists and Lutherans, "once for favored sinners slain," now reads "Once for every sinner slain." (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 50 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- *PONDER* today's Hymn of the Day, LSB 336, "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"

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 ❖

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT - "Rejoice!" (December 13, 2020)

- Old Testament: **Isaiah 40:1-11** – Prepare the way of the Lord...comfort my people.
Psalm: **Psalm 85** – "Lord, you have been favorable to Your land...You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people."
Epistle: **1 Corinthians 4:1-5** – He who judges is the Lord.
Holy Gospel: **Matthew 11:2-11** – John's question to Jesus from prison.



✠ 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](#).

AN ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE is being added to our Christmas schedule to accommodate safe, healthy worshipping in this year of pandemic. We will still celebrate Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m. and we will *repeat* that service again at 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Our complete schedule of Christmas services is:

<u>Christmas Eve (Dec. 24)</u> 4:00 pm – Divine Service 7:00 pm – Divine Service (<i>repeat</i>)	<u>Christmas Day (Dec. 25)</u> 9:30 am – Divine Service	<u>New Year's Eve (Dec. 31)</u> 4:00 pm – Divine Service
--	--	---

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.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING OF THE SANCTUARY will take place on Saturday, December 19 at 9:00 a.m. The more hands we have, the quicker the job will go, and we'll manage the work doing our best to socially distance. As normal, you may wear a mask as you so choose.

THE GIVING TREE: Thank you to everyone who has purchased gifts for the children at Our Little Haven and the family from Lydia's House. Please remember all gifts should be returned by next Sunday, December 13. Gifts are to be unwrapped but with the tag attached. Monday the gifts will be taken to the respective charities. Thanks again for your participation and generosity. Hopefully we have helped to make someone's Christmas just a bit merrier. Blessings.

TITHING ENVELOPES FOR 2021 MAY BE PICKED UP TODAY IN THE ELEVATOR LOBBY. Please do not begin using them until January.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6: **Romans 15:4a** – "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction." God's Word was given to us to bless us. The Bible warns us of our sin and points us to Christ for our salvation. The Bible also instructs us as to how to live out our Christians lives. This is the "third use of the Law." As Christians we should welcome this instruction in humble faith. We know that Christ has saved us, and now we want to know how to live lives of faith that are pleasing to Him.

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✠ *November 1-14, 2020*

ATTENDANCE

Sunday: 66

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 ✠ *December 6, 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:

"Malachi" – Seminarian Scot Missling

WEEK'S CALENDAR

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

7:00 pm Advent Evening Prayer

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Pastor's Day Off