



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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WEEKLY NEWS ✠ December 13, 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 ✠

JOHN THE BAPTIZER PREPARES THE WAY FOR THE LORD

The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord..." (Isa. 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah's coming through repentance, for "all flesh is grass" (Isa. 40:6). Now He asks from prison, "Are you the one who is to come...?" (Matt. 11:2). Jesus' works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord's hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The "stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:1) still deliver Christ's overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God's people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.

✠ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ✠

HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING (LSB 345)

Although earliest manuscript copy dates from the tenth century, this text is possibly as old as the fifth century. It is based on the Latin hymn *Vox clara ecce intonat* and its 1632 revision *En clara vox redarguit*. The text in the Psalter Hymnal is a revision of both Edward Caswall's (PHH 438) translation in his *Lyra Catholica* (1849) and the translation in *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (1861). Stanzas 1-3 contain references to Christ's first coming, but stanza 4 surely refers to the second coming, and stanza 5, the only stanza addressed to God, is a doxology. William H. Monk composed MERTON and published it in *The Parish Choir* (1850). The tune has been associated with this text since the 1861 edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. The tune's title is thought to refer to Walter de Merton, founder of Merton College, Oxford, England.

✠ 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 85 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- PONDER today's Hymn of the Day, LSB 345, "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

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 ✠

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT - "Shower, O heavens!" (December 20, 2020)

Old Testament: **Deuteronomy 18:15-19**— A Prophet like Moses.

Psalm: **Psalm 111**— "He sent redemption to his people; Holy and awesome is his name!"

Epistle: **Philippians 4:4-7**— Rejoice in the Lord always.

Holy Gospel: **John 1:19-28**— John the Baptizer is the voice crying in the wilderness.



✠ 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
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LAST WEEKEND BEFORE ORDERING! 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 today. 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 13: **1 Corinthians 4:2** – "Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful." A steward manages the property of the owner for the owner's purposes. We are stewards of all that God has given us. So, we are called to use all that we are and all that we have for God's purposes. How do we know what these are? Consider your vocations – your callings from God in the home, in the Church, and in society. What are the roles God has called you to play? And how should you be using the gifts He's given you to fulfill those roles?

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✠ November 22- December 6, 2020

ATTENDANCE
Sunday: 71

FINANCIAL

<i>Nov. 22-Dec. 6</i>		<i>Year-to-Date</i>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	
Income:	\$16,054	\$10,875	Income: \$231,683.50
Expense:	\$10,536	\$10,875	Expense: \$211,932.34
			\$235,769

THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✠ December 13, 2020

SCHEDULE

9:00 – DIVINE SERVICE
Live stream at
www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl
10:30 – Sunday School/Bible Study
11:45 – Youth Catechism Class

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS

Nursery:
2nd Floor –
Sanctuary:
Rev. Dr. Tom Egger

WEEK'S CALENDAR

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

7:00 pm Advent Evening Prayer

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Pastor's Day Off