



# Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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

[www.hopelutheranstl.org](http://www.hopelutheranstl.org)



## WEEKLY NEWS ❖ December 27, 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 ❖

*ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST*

St. John the Evangelist put Christmas in one verse: "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). Not martyred but still a witness, John was exiled to Patmos and died an old man, according to tradition. He bore witness "to the Word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw" (Rev. 1:2). Above all, he was an eyewitness of Christ who proclaims to us what he saw and heard concerning the "Word of Life" that was "made manifest" (1 John 1:1-3). "And we know that his testimony is true" (John 21:24). The readings today include John's testimony of Christ's atoning death and His third resurrection appearance (John 21:14). On the third day of Christmas, we find joy and gladness with John and all the apostles that "we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous," who is "the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:1-2).

### ❖ 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 11 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- **PONDER** today's Hymn of the Day, *LSB 517*, "By All Your Saints in Warfare"

**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 ❖

*SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS* (January 3, 2021)

Old Testament: **Genesis 46:1-7**—Jacob and his family go to Egypt and are reunited with Joseph.

Psalm: **Psalm 77:11-20**—"Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God?"

Epistle: **1 Peter 4:12-19**—Rejoicing as we share in Christ's sufferings.

Holy Gospel: **Matthew 2:13-23**—Joseph and Mary flee to Egypt with the Infant Jesus.



✠ 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](#).

A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all who participated in and purchased gifts for the "Giving Tree". All the gifts were delivered the week of December 13<sup>th</sup> to the perspective charities - Our Little Haven and Lydia's House. Both organizations were most grateful for the donations.

A MOST SINCERE AND HEARTY THANK YOU to all of you dear saints at Hope for your concern, prayers, and support during Rachel's recent battle against COVID and during my own battle with COVID and pneumonia. Thank you for the cards and texts showing your concern. I am ever grateful to all of our member clergy who filled in during this time of cross-bearing. Also, thank you so much for all of the cards and well wishes on the occasion of my 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination (December 16)! -Pastor Asburry

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

OPEN ALTAR FLOWER DATES in January are Sunday, Jan 10, 17, 24, and 31. Vases are \$21 each and are yours to take home after the service. There is a 2021 flower calendar in the narthex that if you would like to put flowers on the altar on a particular Sunday sign up on the calendar and take an envelope by the calendar to put your payment in. You can also call Carol, 752-0525 or 691-3619 to reserve a date.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27: **Luke 2:39** - "And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord..." The Law of God is good. Of course, it always shows us our sins, but that is good, too! We need to be driven back to the forgiveness of Christ. And the Law also shows us the truly blessed way to live. As Mary and Joseph found their joy in a godly life, so should we see the Law as a guide for Christian living and the roadmap for saying thank you to the Lord for all His grace and mercy to us.

THIS WEEK ON KFUD AM850 & [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org), we celebrate our Savior's birth during the 12 Days of Christmas with music, prayer, scripture, and programming for the season. Hear this special programming through January 6!

**STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✠ November**

**ATTENDANCE**  
Sunday: 71

**FINANCIAL**

	<i>November</i>		<i>Year-to-Date</i>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Income:	\$39,748	\$23,576	\$271,431	\$259,343
Expense:	\$20,220	\$23,574	\$232,152	\$259,343

**THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✠ December 27, 2020**

**SCHEDULE**

9:00 - DIVINE SERVICE  
Live stream at  
[www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl](http://www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl)  
10:30 - Sunday School/Bible Study

**SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS**

**Nursery:**  
2nd Floor -  
**Sanctuary:**  
"Biblical Themes in the 'O Antiphons' and 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'"  
Rev. Dr. Tom Egger

**WEEK'S CALENDAR**

MONDAY

---

TUESDAY

---

WEDNESDAY

---

THURSDAY  
4:00 pm New Year's Eve Divine Service

---

FRIDAY  
4:00 pm Egger-Pool Wedding

---

SATURDAY  
Pastor's Day Off