



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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WEEKLY NEWS ❖ January 3, 2021

❖ 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 ❖

JESUS IS THE PERFECT ISRAEL

Israel and all his family went and dwelt in Egypt (Gen. 46:1-7). God made a great nation of him there, but that nation would prove unfaithful to the Lord. Therefore, the New Israel came. In fleeing the murderous Herod, our young Lord goes to Egypt (Matt. 2:13-23), that the prophecy might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my Son" (Hos. 11:1). Jesus brings to perfection what old Israel could not. He is the faithful Israel, the embodiment of the people of God. He offers His perfect and holy life in place of our own. He submits Himself to persecution and suffering in order to save us. Therefore, we should not think it strange when we who are in Christ experience trials because of the faith (1 Pet. 4:12-19). Rather, we rejoice to share in Christ's sufferings, knowing that we will also share in His glory.

❖ 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 77 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- **PONDER** today's Hymn of the Day, *LSB* 385, "From East to West"

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 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD (January 10, 2021)

Jesus is baptized to fulfill all righteousness – in our place.

- Old Testament: **Joshua 3:1-3, 7-8, 13-17** – Israel crosses the Jordan and enters the Promised Land.
- Psalm: **Psalm 85** – "Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him."
- Epistle: **1 Corinthians 1:26-31** – Christ is our righteousness, our sanctification, and our redemption.
- Holy Gospel: **Matthew 3:13-17** – Jesus is baptized to fulfill all righteousness for us.



✠ 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 13th 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 30th anniversary of ordination (December 16)! -Pastor Asburry

TITHING ENVELOPES FOR 2021 MAY BE PICKED UP IN THE ELEVATOR LOBBY AND YOU MAY START USING TODAY.

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, JANUARY 3: **Genesis 46:6** - "They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan ..." Look at all the temporal blessings that God gave to Jacob. We have also been greatly blessed to live in a land of freedom and prosperity. Shouldn't that make us thankful and generous?

THIS WEEK ON KFUE AM850 & 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:	FINANCIAL			
	November		Year-to-Date	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Income:	\$39,748	\$23,576	Income: \$271,431	\$259,343
Expense:	\$20,220	\$23,574	Expense: \$232,152	\$259,343

THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✠ JANUARY 3, 2021

SCHEDULE	SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS	WEEK'S CALENDAR
9:00 - DIVINE SERVICE Live stream at www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl	Nursery: 2nd Floor -	MONDAY
10:30 - Sunday School/Bible Study	Sanctuary: "Biblical Themes in the 'O Antiphons' and 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'" Rev. Dr. Tom Egger	TUESDAY
		WEDNESDAY 7:00 pm - Epiphany Divine Service
		THURSDAY
		FRIDAY
		SATURDAY Pastor's Day Off