



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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WEEKLY NEWS ❖ January 10, 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 ❖

IN HIS BAPTISM, JESUS TAKES HIS PLACE WITH SINNERS

Our Lord Jesus is baptized "to fulfill all righteousness" (Matt. 3:13-17). He partakes of a baptism for sinners in order that He might be our substitute and bear the judgment we deserve. In the water, Jesus trades places with us. Our sin becomes His sin. His righteousness becomes our righteousness. Our glory, therefore, is in "Christ Jesus, who became to us . . . righteousness and sanctification and redemption" (1 Cor. 1:26-31). Jesus is the "chosen" One sent from the Father to release us from the prison house of sin and death (Is. 42:1-7). Baptized into Christ, we also become the chosen ones, beloved of the Father. We cross the Jordan with Jesus (Joshua 3) through death into the promised land of new life with God.

❖ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ❖

In today's Gospel we once again see John the Baptist. This time he is baptizing Jesus. We hear from heaven, "He is my Son. With Him I am well pleased." Many of today's hymns focus on this event. The Hymn of the Day is Martin Luther's *To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord*. This hymn is part of Luther's series of hymns on the Catechism. The tune CHRIST, UNSER HERR was not originally written for this hymn text. However it became associated with it in 1543 and the tune and text have been bonded ever since.

❖ 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 407, "To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord"*

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 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY (January 17, 2021)

Jesus is our Lord of gladness and gives us a foretaste of His heavenly wedding feast.

- Old Testament: **Exodus 33:12-23**—God reveals His glory to Moses by showing His "back." God must hide Himself to reveal Himself to us.
- Psalm: **Psalm 67**—"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us"
- Epistle: **Ephesians 5:22-33**—Christ is the bridegroom and His Church is the bride—a divine picture for all husbands and wives.
- Holy Gospel: **John 2:1-11**—Jesus changes water into rich wine at a wedding banquet and reveals Himself as the Lord of gladness.



✠ 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](#).

OPEN ALTAR FLOWER DATES in January are Sunday, Jan 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.

GIVING OPPORTUNITY: Please join together in serving our neighbors by collecting items for Humanitri, an organization in St. Louis that helps the homeless acquire stability (Humanitri.org). A list of suggested items is in the narthex. You can place your items in a box located in the narthex starting January 17. We will collect for the next four Sundays.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 10: **Matthew 3:14 - "John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?'"** John is right. What Jesus is doing makes no sense! But this is the upside down, outlandish grace of God. The innocent Jesus takes our sinner's place. This is the greatest act of giving the world has ever known or will know. The Father gives His Son to die in the place of sinners.

ATTENTION ALL GRADE SCHOOL GRADUATES! Did you graduate from Ascension/Word of Life Lutheran School? We are trying to update our list of graduates, and we would love to hear from you. Please contact Joel Akridge, the admissions director, at admissions@wordoflifeschool.net, with your name, address, email address and phone number. It would be helpful if you would include the year you graduated, and your maiden name (if applicable). Thanks for your help; we look forward to hearing from you!

EXPERT GUESTS, EXPANSIVE TOPICS, EXTOLLING CHRIST... 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: The Sacred Names of God, The Epiphany Hymn "The Only Son from Heaven," Critical Theory, Responding to the Argument Against Miracles and more. You can tune in live weekdays from 3-5 p.m. on KFUE, 850 AM in St. Louis. You can also listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✠ December 20-31

ATTENDANCE
Sunday:

FINANCIAL

	<i>December 20-31</i>		<i>Year-to-Date</i>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Income:	\$14,099	\$7,290	\$271,431	\$259,343
Expense:	\$7,376	\$7,257	\$232,152	\$259,343

THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✠ JANUARY 10, 2021

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:
"On Holy Ground:
Why We Do What We Do in
Worship"
Pastor Randy Asburry

WEEK'S CALENDAR

MONDAY
7:00 Church Council meeting (Zoom)

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY
7:00 Divine Service

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY
Pastor's Day Off