



# Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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

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



## WEEKLY NEWS ❖ January 17, 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 ❖

The coming of the Messianic kingdom means the restoration of creation. The sign of this restoration is that "the mountains shall drip sweet wine" (Amos 9:11-15). When the elements of a fallen creation fail and run short at a wedding feast, our Lord Jesus steps in to restore creation and miraculously changes water into an abundance of the very best wine (John 2:1-11). With this sign, Christ manifests His glory. The "back" of God (Ex. 33:12-23) is revealed to those who believe. The hour will come when Jesus will again manifest His glory by taking creation's curse into His own body to release us from its power. The Bridegroom will give His life for the Bride (Eph. 5:22-32), and from His side will flow water and blood, the holy sacraments by which she is cleansed and made one with Him. Through this sacrificial love of Christ we are enabled to "love one another with brotherly affection . . ." and to "outdo one another in showing honor" (Rom. 12:6-16).

### ❖ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ❖

Our hymn of the day today, *The Only Son from Heaven* (LSB 402), has an interesting background. The following is taken from a new LCMS resource of Hymn Studies, available at [lcms.org](http://lcms.org). "This hymn holds many distinctions. It is one of the earliest Lutheran hymns, as it was written around 1524, right about the time that Martin Luther began in earnest to revive the hymnody of the Church. Hymns from that period are well known for being substantive, and this one is no exception. The author of our hymn was a woman, Elisabeth (Meseritz) Cruciger (1500-1535), an ex-nun from Rega who married a theologian named Caspar Cruciger in 1524. She and her husband became close friends of Martin and Katherine Luther, and could often be found around the Luther dinner table. Given her age and the times in which she lived, it is nothing short of amazing that Luther and his colleague, Kantor Johann Walter, approved this text for the earliest Lutheran hymnals. The hymn was not included in *The Lutheran Hymnal* of 1941, but was reintroduced in the Missouri Synod with its inclusion in *Lutheran Worship* in 1982. It has slowly but steadily gained acceptance and popularity in our circles since that time."

### ❖ 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 67 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- **PONDER** today's Hymn of the Day, LSB 402, "The Only Son from Heaven"

**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 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD** (January 24, 2021)

*Jesus shows His glory before He goes on to His suffering and death.*

- Old Testament: **Exodus 34:29-35** – Moses' shining face.  
 Psalm: **Psalm 99** – "The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!"  
 Epistle: **2 Peter 1:16-21** – Eyewitnesses of Jesus' majesty.  
 Holy Gospel: **Matthew 17:1-9** – Jesus gloriously transfigured.



✠ 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 and February 7 and 14. 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.

LUTHERAN WITNESS subscription renewal (or take out a new subscription!) time is here. The *Lutheran Witness* is a magazine that informs us as to what others are doing for the Lord. A yearly subscription is \$15.96. You can put your check in the specific envelope in your Tithing packet, make check payable to Hope Lutheran Church. If you no longer wish to receive an existing subscription, please notify the church office.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 17: **John 2:5 - "His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'** " What must Mary have thought when Jesus replied, "What does this have to do with Me?" But she knew whatever her Son said to do would be a blessing, so she knows what advice to give to the servants: Do whatever He tells you! That's still good advice for us in every aspect of our lives, including in our generosity toward the Lord's work in the Church.

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](mailto: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!

**STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✠ December**

**ATTENDANCE**  
Sunday:

**FINANCIAL**

	<i>December</i>		<i>Year-to-Date</i>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Income:	\$24,827	\$23,575	\$281,717	\$282,918
Expense:	\$21,762	\$23,575	\$253,915	\$282,918

**THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✠ JANUARY 17, 2021**

**SCHEDULE**

9:00 - DIVINE SERVICE  
Live stream at  
[www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl](http://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