



# Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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## WEEKLY NEWS ✠ February 7, 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 ✠

#### WORD ALONE

The Sower sows the seed of His Word (Luke 8:4-15). This Word is living and powerful (Heb. 4:9-13) to conceive new life in those who hear it. But the planting of Christ is attacked by the devil, the world, and the flesh. Satan snatches the Word away from hard hearts. The riches and pleasures of this life choke off faith. Shallow and emotional belief withers in time of temptation and trouble. But see how Christ bears this attack for us! Christ's cross was planted in the hard and rocky soil of Golgotha. A crown of thorns was placed upon His head. Satan and His demons hellishly hounded and devoured Him. Yet, through His dying and rising again, He destroyed these enemies of ours. Jesus is Himself the Seed which fell to the ground and died in order that it might sprout forth to new life and produce much grain. In Him, the weak are strong (2 Cor. 11:19-12:9). He is the Word of the Father which does not return void (Is. 55:10-13) but yields a harvest hundredfold.

### ✠ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ✠

By Scripture Alone. From today's Gospel reading of the Parable of the Sower we learn how important it is to be well fed. Well fed in the Word of God, so that we might grow in good soil and yield much fruit. All our hymns today focus on this idea, the idea of being in the word. From Martin Luther's Reformation hymn, *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word*, to Martin Franzmann's twentieth century hymn, *Thy Strong Word*, we are constantly reminded of our vocation as God's children. The first four stanzas of *Thy Strong Word* retell salvation's story, tracing history from creation to God's redeeming sacrifice on the cross. The final two stanzas are our response, including a prayer that God would "give us lips to sing Thy glory, tongues thy mercy to proclaim."

### ✠ 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 84 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- *PONDER* today's Hymn of the Day, *LSB 824, "May God Bestow on Us His Grace"*

*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 ✠

QUINQUAGESIMA ("50 Days" - until Easter) (February 14, 2021)

*The Lord Jesus is on His way up to Jerusalem.*

Old Testament: **1 Samuel 16:1-13** – God anoints David to be king of Israel.

Psalm: **Psalm 146** – "I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being."

Epistle: **1 Corinthians 13:1-13** – The greatest of these is love – love in the Christian life.

Holy Gospel: **Luke 18:31-43** – Jesus heals the blind man – that we may see Him on His way to Jerusalem.

✠ 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 DATE February 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 through February 7.

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, February 7: **Luke 8:5 - "And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot. . ."** Know any farmers like this? Who just throw their crop seed wherever? That's crazy! But God's ways are not our ways - He is generous beyond compare! He delights in giving. As we are more and more conformed to His image, may we also learn the joy of generosity and giving!

LUTHERANISM IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE... 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 topics include: Christian Nationalism, The Equality Act, Donor Conception, Media Coverage of Religion and more. You can tune in live weekdays from 3-5 p.m. on KFUE, 850 AM in St. Louis. You can also listen at your convenience at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

THIS WEEK ON KFUE.org, study Galatians on Thy Strong Word with host Rev. Brady Finnern (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), continue in Mark 6-7 on Sharper Iron with host Rev. Timothy Appel (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and worship with us in Daily Chapel weekdays at 10:00 a.m. CT. Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfue.org](http://kfue.org) or on your podcast app.

**STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✠ January 17-31**

ATTENDANCE Sunday: 79	FINANCIAL				
	January 17-31		Year End 2020		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	
Income:	\$12,013	\$10,983	Income:	\$281,717	\$282,918
Expense:	\$10,798	\$10,549	Expense:	\$253,915	\$282,918

**THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✠ February 7, 2021**

SCHEDULE	SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS	WEEK'S CALENDAR
9:00 - DIVINE SERVICE Live stream at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl">www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl</a>	<b>Nursery:</b> 2nd Floor -	MONDAY
10:30 - Sunday School/Bible Study	<b>Sanctuary:</b> "On Holy Ground: Why We Do What We Do in Worship"	TUESDAY
11:45 - Youth Catechism Class	Pastor Randy Asburry	WEDNESDAY 7:00 pm - Divine Service
		THURSDAY
		FRIDAY
		SATURDAY Pastor's Day Off