



# Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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## WEEKLY NEWS ❖ February 14, 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 ❖

#### FAITH ALONE

The seeing are blind, while the one who is blind can see (Luke 18:31-43). Jesus tells the twelve that He is going up to Jerusalem to suffer and die and rise again, but they cannot understand or grasp what He is saying. The meaning of His words is hidden from their sight. However, as Jesus makes His way up to Jerusalem, a blind man calls out to Him for mercy. This blind man sees that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior, for he calls Him "Son of David." Indeed, Jesus is the Lord's anointed, the keeper of sheep (1 Sam. 16:1-13) who goes to lay down His life for the sheep. He is the incarnate love of the Father who suffers long and is kind, who is not puffed up, who never fails us (1 Cor. 13:1-13). Jesus opens the eyes of the blind (Is. 35:3-7) to see Him not according to outward appearances of lowliness, but according to His heart of mercy and compassion. Those who behold Him thus by faith follow Him to the cross through death into life.

### ❖ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ❖

In 1986, Lutheran pastor Rusty Edwards (b. 1955) opened his Bible with the intention of creating a Bible study on the actual life and unique ministry of Jesus: What on earth did Jesus really do? As I prayed, studied, and thanked God for the life of Jesus, I began to write down some of his works. The list grew longer. Suddenly, I gazed down at the list and the list looked almost like a hymn. (Rusty Edwards, "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness," *CrossAccent* 15, no. 2 [2007]: 39) Edwards then set aside the Bible study and composed "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness," a celebration of the marvelous works of the incarnate Son of God. This hymn is deeply descriptive of the life and works of Jesus. It is filled with biblical imagery. Yet Jesus is not explicitly mentioned by name until the third stanza. The hymn begins by celebrating the freedom that is brought by the "light" (John 1:4-9) who breaks the darkness. Out of that light comes freedom and all its benefits (described in st. 1). Read John 8:34-36. In the second stanza humanity (the children), the spiritual realm (demons), and the whole of creation (burning sand) are made whole by the one who is "living water." Read John 4:7-15. The hymn concludes with the explicit identification of "the One" as the incarnate Word. We have been moved from table (Communion) to font (Baptism), and now the hymn concludes with a focus on the grace that table and font bring. Edwards saves the best for last. Read John 3:16-17. (taken from *The Word in Song*)

### ❖ 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 146 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- **PONDER** today's Hymn of the Day, *LSB* 849, "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

**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 ❖

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT** (February 21, 2021)

*Jesus is tempted as we are, and thus He is the way out of our sin.*

Old Testament: **Genesis 3:1-21** – The Fall into sin (our need for a Savior).

Psalm: **Psalm 32** – "You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble"

Epistle: **2 Corinthians 6:1-10** – Now is the day of God's salvation.

Holy Gospel: **Matthew 4:1-11** – The Temptation of 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](#).

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LEMAY is hosting a midweek Lenten organ recital series. Thirty-minute recitals will take place at 11:00 am on Wednesdays in Lent, preceding their mid-day Lenten services. Recitals will be heard live on KFUE 850 AM, streamed on Youtube (at Peace Lutheran Church STL), or socially distant and in person in their sanctuary. The series begins on Ash Wednesday. Kantor Janssen will be playing the recital on February 24. More information is available at [peacestlmusic.org](http://peacestlmusic.org).

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who donated to the Humanitri donation drive. We collected 12 bags of household items. Your generosity will bless the lives of many struggling families in our community.

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 14: **Luke 18:34** - "This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said." Even our understanding of the Word of God is a gift - the disciples can't understand Jesus because it is not given to them to understand him. By nature they are deaf to the Word. So everything we have is a gift of God. To realize this is the beginning of thankfulness, generosity, and kindness.

EDUCATING A NEW GENERATION OF LUTHERANS... 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 Word "Mercy" in the Bible; The Rise & Triumph of the Modern Self; Surrogacy; Faith That Engages the Culture 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](http://issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

THIS WEEK ON KFUE.org, hear Midweek Lenten Service from Peace Lutheran in St. Louis on 2/17 at 11:00 a.m. CT, study a curious theological topic on Cross Defense with Rev. Tyrel Bramwell 2/15 at 2:00 p.m. CT, and hear a variety of topics and sacred music weekdays during Midday Moments at 12:00 p.m. CT. Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or on your podcast app!

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

ATTENDANCE Sunday: 83	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 14, 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> "Eighth Day Images of Hope" Pastor Randy Asburry	TUESDAY
		WEDNESDAY 7:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Divine Service
		THURSDAY
		FRIDAY
		SATURDAY Pastor's Day Off