



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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WEEKLY NEWS ✠ July 25, 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. Today we open all of the center section pews and Bible Class moves back to the basement auditorium. Coffee Hour also returns! See the service folder for updated health and safety protocols. 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 ✠

ST. JAMES THE ELDER, APOSTLE

The sons of Zebedee ask for *seats at Jesus' right and left in glory* (Mark 10:37). But they do not know what they are asking (Matt. 20:22), for God's kingdom is not of glory and power but the cross. We will bear ours after Him. *For His sake we are killed and regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. But in all this we are more than conquerors through Him* (Rom. 8:36-37), for Jesus' death is unique. He alone is *baptized* with our sin and *drinks the cup* of God's wrath against it (Mark 10:38). We live in service to our neighbors after His example; but He alone is *the Son of Man, come to give His life as a ransom for many* (v. 45). Today the Church commemorates the fulfillment of Christ's prophecy about *James, killed with Herod's sword* (Acts 12:2). He is honored as the first apostle to be *conformed to the image of God's Son* (Rom. 8:29). But what is that when *Christ Jesus has died – more than that, is raised – and is at the right hand of God, interceding for us? Nothing* (not even a sword) can separate James and us from the love of Christ (v. 34-35).

✠ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ✠

"Thy Strong Word" cuts through the darkness like the big blade of a sword. Stanza 1 begins with Gen. 1:1-3, John 1:1-5, and God's act of creation. We give thanks for created light that shines through the sun, moon, and stars to order all our days and our seasons. In stanza 2 the images change. The darkness is no longer the state before God's creative Word speaks, but the result of the fall. This darkness speaks of the world marred by sin and death. Once glorious creatures who crowned His work, humans found themselves cursed and unable to free themselves. Stanza 3 describes the result of Christ's coming into the world. He "bespeaks us righteous" until we shine with His very own holiness (Rom. 3:5-6). Our lives on earth "press toward glory," where our eternal hopes are fulfilled. We know Christ crucified (1 Cor. 1:22-25). He is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Through the cross, God breaks into our hearts with His shining, conquering might. In the fifth stanza we plead for God's light to enable a fitting response from us. We beg for "lips to sing" His glory, throats to shout our hope, and mouths to speak His holy name. In this stanza the image of light is implicit. And then what is perhaps the nest doxological stanza ever explodes in a burst of light, praising God the Father (light-creator), the Son (the Light of Light begotten), and the Holy Spirit (light-revealer). (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 56 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- **PONDER** today's Hymn of the Day, *LSB 420*, "Christ the Life of All the Living."

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 NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (August 1, 2021) –

- Old Testament: **2 Samuel 22:26-34** – God shows Himself merciful; He brings down the haughty, but lifts up the humble.
- Psalm: **Psalm 51:1-12** -- "Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem."
- Epistle: **1 Corinthians 10:6-13** – Though we are tempted and fall to sin, God is faithful to forgive.
- Holy Gospel: **Luke 16:1-13** – Parable of the Unjust Manager – learning to be wise in this world.



✠ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✠

PLEASE NOTE, THE ENTIRE SMALL PARKING LOT IS STILL reserved only for elderly and handicapped parking. We have elderly that are not able to walk from the large lot. THANK YOU for reserving that lot for those that truly need it!

OPEN ALTAR FLOWER DATES are Sunday, August 8, 15, 22 and 29. Vases are \$21 each and are yours to take home after the service. You can take an envelope by the calendar to put your payment in or call Carol, 752-0525 or 691-3619 to reserve a date.

WHILE PASTOR ASBURY is on vacation (July 15-26), if you have any pastoral care needs (hospitalization, etc.), please call the church office (314-352-0014) to arrange for a pastor who is on call.

ALL ARE INVITED TO FAMILY FRIENDLY CONCERTS AT PEACE LUTHERAN, 737 BARRACKSVIEW ROAD. This Thursday, July 29, from 7-8 pm will be The Abbey Road Warriors. The Warriors play the music of the Fab Four with passion and love.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES! Chad and Alicia Rolland will be leading one class (meeting upstairs in Room 2 next to the nursery) for all children who have not yet been confirmed. Older students will help lead with reading and activities. The summer line-up includes learning and singing the liturgy, digging into New Testament stories together, and activities/crafts.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, July 25: **Mark 10:37-38a** - "And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking.' " Jesus' glory was to be high and lifted high upon a cross. And when He took up that exalted position, there would indeed be a man on His right and another on His left - the two thieves. How often do we pray for things and not know what we are really asking for? How often do we think we know best? What is always best is to follow the Lord's commands in simple faith that He knows best.

CHRIST FOR YOU THIS WEEK ON KFUE AM850 & kfuo.org: Hear a missionary story from Kenya on The Coffee Hour 7/29 at 9:00 a.m., study Jeremiah 41-46 on Sharper Iron's "A Time to Destroy and a Time to Build" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m.), and study Nehemiah 9-13 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m.). Find these programs on demand at kfuo.org or on the KFUE Radio app!

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✠ June 25

ATTENDANCE
Sunday: TBA

FINANCIAL

		<i>The month of June</i>		<i>Year-to-date through June</i>	
		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Income:	\$19,443	\$24,378	Income:	\$137,969	\$145,930
Expense:	\$20,172	\$21,931	Expense:	\$124,532	\$131,564

THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✠ July 25, 2021

SCHEDULE

9:00 - DIVINE SERVICE
Live stream at
www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl
10:15 - Coffee Hour
10:30 - Bible Study/Summer
Sunday School

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS

2nd Floor:
Summer Sunday School
Chad & Alicia Rolland

Basement Auditorium:
"Communion and Covid-19"
Pastor Rick Serina

WEEK'S CALENDAR

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY