



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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

www.hopelutheranstl.org



✠ THE HOPE LUTHERAN ✠

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June-July 2022

Glory and Unity in Christ, and Our New Communion Flow

During the last four Sundays of Easter, we both celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday. The several Gospel readings from John 16 repeatedly draw our attention to “the Spirit of truth” (16:13) and what He comes to do: guide God’s people “into all the truth” (16:13). When we continue reading John’s Gospel into chapter 17, we witness Jesus praying for God’s truth and our new life in Him.

Jesus Prays for Our Glory and Unity

John 17 is called “The High Priestly Prayer” of Jesus. In this prayer Jesus addressed His Father in heaven and prayed:

- 1) for Himself (John 17:1-5),
- 2) for His disciples whom the Father gave Him (John 17:6-19), and
- 3) for all who would believe in Him through the preaching of His disciples (John 17:20-26).

Two prominent themes jump out of this chapter-long prayer: *glory* and *unity*. When Jesus prayed for us, He prayed that we may be *glorified* and *united* in Him. Not only did Jesus pray these things for us; He also delivers them. We receive glory and oneness as gifts from our risen Lord through His Holy Spirit.

God’s Glory in Jesus Crucified and Risen

We often picture God’s glory as brilliant, radiating light emanating from God or heavenly things. Jesus’ Transfiguration comes to mind (Matthew 17:1-8). Another description of God’s glory, though, would be “weight” or “heaviness” – the awe-filled seriousness of being in His presence. Think of the way you would

feel in the presence of someone famous, and then multiply that by 1,000.

Just before He went to the cross, Jesus prayed to His Father: “*Glorify your Son that he may glorify you*” (17:1). The Father glorified His Son by sending Him to the cross for our salvation. (Also see John 13:31.) Then Jesus prayed: “*And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed*” (17:5). Following His death and resurrection, our Lord Jesus returned to God’s right hand, to the glorious presence with the Father and the Holy Spirit that He had before time.

Jesus later prayed for His followers, saying, “*The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one*” (John 17:22). Two verses later Jesus prayed: “*Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world*” (John 17:24). What Jesus prayed before going to the cross He delivers after His resurrection. Jesus glorifies us, His followers, and makes us one in Him by bringing us into His presence.

God’s Gift of Unity

Throughout John 17, our Lord prayed that His disciples and His later followers “may be one.” For His twelve disciples, He prayed: “*Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one*” (17:11). For those who would later believe in Jesus, He prayed: “*that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me*” (17:21). This unity, or oneness, is not a

human achievement. It's a gift from our risen Lord Jesus, accomplished by His death and resurrection.

It's a gift that comes from hearing, learning, and treasuring His Word. As Jesus prayed: "*Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth*" (John 17:11). It's a gift given in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. St. Paul proclaimed: "*The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread*" (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). It's even a gift that is very real to the eyes of faith. "*There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all*" (Ephesians 4:4-6).

Manifesting the Glory of Unity in Christ

As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost, we see the manifestation of glory and unity in Christ in the coming of the Holy Spirit. Of course, it was a glorious – weighty, heavy – event when God the Holy Spirit revealed His presence and enabled the preaching of Jesus. We also see how the Gospel united the various peoples from the many different nations. See Acts 2:1-41. The Pentecost story leads us to sing boldly:

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord,
With all Your graces now outpoured
On each believer's mind and heart;
Your fervent love to them impart.
Lord, by the brightness of Your light
In holy faith Your Church unite;
From ev'ry land and ev'ry tongue
This to Your praise, O Lord, our God, be sung:
Alleluia, alleluia! (LSB 497:1)

Expressing Unity at Communion

Allow me to apply this Scriptural teaching on the gift of unity in Christ to our newly established "continuous flow" and common Dismissal at Holy Communion. I pray that this will address some questions that have recently arisen in the congregation.

When we at Hope came out of the pandemic and returned to using the Communion rail (August 2021), we instituted a "continuous flow" of communicants

reverently coming to the rail, kneeling or standing upon arrival, receiving Christ's precious Body and Blood—the most important thing in the whole process!—and then excusing themselves to return to their pews. All this is done without the pastor giving a welcome or the dismissal at the rail. Yes, this is different from the multiple "table-by-table" welcomes and dismissals we had practiced prior to the Covid lockdown of 2020.

Before we returned to the Communion rail, the Board of Elders and I discussed and intentionally decided to practice the Dismissal from Communion in a different manner. (When we hear: "The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul. Depart in peace.") We thought it a good time to emphasize the unity we receive in the Sacrament by having a *common* Dismissal. Hearing the singular Dismissal all together and at the same time expresses this unity given in the Supper.

The Board of Elders has been encouraged with how well this practice has gone since last August. We must, however, apologize for not communicating more clearly that this practice would continue. We are sorry for that and appreciate your forgiveness!

This is certainly an *adiaphoron*—something neither commanded nor forbidden by God's Word—and not a doctrinal issue. It is, however, something taught in resources on Lutheran worship that already inform our worship in other ways. For example, Timothy Maschke writes: "...a single common Dismissal at the end of the Distribution can provide a sense of unity as the whole congregation hears the good news of God's gracious gift in the Sacrament."¹ We also witness this practice of a common Dismissal at our two LCMS seminaries as well as in many other LCMS congregations.

Yes, this Communion practice—a "continuous flow" with the common Dismissal—is new to us at Hope. I pray that we will embrace it fully as we confess, express, and enjoy the unity that the Holy Spirit works by bringing us the things of Jesus.

✠ Pastor Randy Asbury

email: rasbury@hopelutheranstl.org

Blog: <http://rasburrypatch.blogspot.com>

Hope's Website: <http://www.hopelutheranstl.org>

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl

¹ Timothy J. Maschke, *Gathered Guests*, Second Edition (CPH, 2009), 176.



Hymn Festival for the Holy Trinity

Featuring

Kevin Hildebrand

composer & organist



Sunday, June 12 at 4:00 pm

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In [Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth (Ephesians 1:7-10).

...O LORD, we pray, give us success!" (Psalm 118:25).

SERVING IN GOD'S MISSION In February, we completed a Sunday morning Bible study series—thank you to everyone who participated and shared. Your hopes, prayers and thinking about the future of our congregation as a family, journeying on the same road together—all under God's grace and provision—are cherished treasure. What's next in Hope's strategic planning process? **A series of congregational workshop sessions, in which all members of Hope are invited to participate.** Using *Re:Vitality* resources developed in the LCMS Office of National Mission,

the outcome of these lively sessions will be a comprehensive strategic ministry plan that will include Hope's vision, mission and purpose statements, as well as a set of specific goals designed to extend the proclamation of the Gospel to the communities that God has called us to serve. **IMPORTANT: Please mark your calendar now and plan to join your fellow Hope members in our fellowship hall on the following dates.** ALL are welcome and encouraged to join us; we need your input.

Saturday, September 10, 9:00-11:15 am
Saturday, September 24, 8:00-11:45 am
Saturday, October 8, 9:00-11:30 am
Saturday, October 22, 8:00 am-Noon
Saturday, November 5, 9:00-10:30 am

More details (previews of agenda and content) to follow, but for now, please mark your calendar and plan to join a vital conversation that we pray will impact our congregation's mission and ministry for the coming generations, to the glory and praise of Christ our Lord!

P.S. Mark your calendar now with the dates/times shown above...and then come. Unable to make a specific session? No worries...plan to join us for the others.

Basement Renovation Update

The Basement Committee was pleased to host Scott Boeker, builder, and construction manager with the architectural team from Ittner for a presentation at the April Voter's meeting. The presentation provided a proposed rendering for the basement renovation based on the information provided to them by the committee. That information came out of the congregational survey responses and a series of meetings with the basement renovation committee.

The next step is to allow everyone in the congregation the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions about what was proposed. To that end, the committee would like to set up a series of '**listening posts**' this summer and into the fall to allow as much congregational participation as possible. As we gain insight and feedback through these listening posts, we will ask the architects to adjust the plans accordingly. Here is the schedule for the summer meetings. We hope that one of these dates and times works for you to attend!

What: **Basement Renovation Listening Posts**
Who: **All Hope members**; teens & children welcome!
When: **June 8 (Wednesday) 7:00 p.m.**
June 26 (Sunday) after Bible Class
July 10 (Sunday) after Bible Class
July 14 (Thursday) 7:00p.m.
Where: **Fellowship Hall in Hope Basement**

Further meeting dates will be announced in the August newsletter and church bulletin.

These meetings are your opportunity to look closely at what is being proposed and react to it with your questions, concerns, and ideas. The Basement Renovation Committee is committed to carrying out the congregation's desires as we work together toward an approved plan, budget, and construction timeline.

Basement renovation committee members: Julie Day, Julie Vigil, Kay Shoemaker, and Pam Nielsen.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – June 2022

What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven” (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles’ Creed in *Luther’s Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed’s First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

“He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

“(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.”

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the

fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

“That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.”

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God’s Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

“All ceremonies should serve the purpose of teaching the people what they need to know about Christ” (Augsburg Confession, 24:3). We now enter the *non-festival half* of the church Year. During the first half of the Church year we hear of the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we begin the **“Trinity Season,”** the time of year when we focus on the life of the Church and the Christian life. Here’s what’s coming up in the Divine Service for June and July as we continue to learn and live the Christian faith and life:

Date	Day in Church Year	Gospel Reading	Gospel Focus (Theme of the Day)
June 5	Feast of Pentecost	John 14:23-31	THE HOLY SPIRIT CREATES THE CHURCH – The Holy Spirit comes to give us faith and sustain us in the faith. That is, He directs our attention to Jesus our Savior. “Pentecost” means 50 days after Easter.
June 12	Feast of Holy Trinity	John 3:1-17	THE TRIUNE GOD – God reveals Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We spend our lives faithfully trusting His goodness. “Trinity” and “Triune” refer to God being three persons in one God.
June 19	First Sunday after Trinity	Luke 16:19-31	THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS – The Holy Spirit creates and sustains the Church by the Word of God. The life of the Christian is marked first and foremost by hearing the Word of God given through the apostles and prophets.
June 26	Second Sunday after Trinity	Luke 14:15-24	THE GREAT INVITATION – God invites us to the fullness of His heavenly gifts. Some make excuses to be absent; others see their need for Jesus’ healing and life. Every Divine Service (Communion Service) is a foretaste of Jesus’ eternal feast.
July 3	Third Sunday after Trinity	Luke 15:1-10 or Luke 15:11-32	THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION – Jesus comes to seek and save that which is lost – us! God and all angels rejoice when sinners repent. That’s what the Church is all about: bringing sinners to repentance and faith in Jesus’ forgiveness.
July 10	Fourth Sunday after Trinity	Luke 6:36-42	THE CONGREGATION OF SINNERS – Jesus has nothing but sinners in His Church. Because of His saving work, He changes us into people who learn to forgive each other just as He first forgave us.
July 17	Fifth Sunday after Trinity	Luke 5:1-11	FOLLOWING JESUS – Jesus reveals Himself as God in the miraculous catch of fish, and Peter recognizes his sinfulness. That’s life in Jesus’ Church. We confess our sin; Jesus graciously forgives. In this way we “catch people alive” as we bring them into the “boat” of the Church.
July 24	Sixth Sunday after Trinity	Matthew 5:20-26	THE NEW RIGHTEOUSNESS – In Baptism our Lord Jesus makes us holy, that is, set apart from the world and belonging to God. Everything right about Jesus is given to us as pure gift. Therefore, we holy people live life in His perfect “rightness.”
July 31	Seventh Sunday after Trinity	Mark 8:1-9	THE SANCTIFICATION OF OUR BODIES – When Jesus feeds the 4000, He shows us that the body is a good thing. After all, He created us to have bodies. When Jesus Christ saves and forgives us, He helps not just the soul, but also the body.

A Word in the Wake of the Buffalo Tragedy

 reporter.lcms.org/2022/a-word-in-the-wake-of-the-buffalo-tragedy

May 18, 2022



“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). Once again violence saddens our nation. A young man, gripped by the satanic delusion “you shall be like God,” has stolen the precious lives of innocent mothers, daughters, sisters, fathers, sons and brothers in Buffalo, N.Y. In his writings, the perpetrator rejected Christianity and espoused the demonic ideas of racial hatred and violence. Yet each one of the slain was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), and each was as valuable as the blood of Jesus (John 3:16).

Acts of evil such as this make us ask, “Is there no reasonable path to preclude the deranged from the legal acquisition of firearms?” “Are threats of violence from such a person free speech?” “Must free speech mean the infinite, unending gush of hatred and filth on the internet, including evil, racist rants with associated threats of violence?” “Is there no stronger pre-emptive remedy available?” We cannot settle for the status quo.

Yet Paul reminds us to persevere in goodness. “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9). But who of us does not grow weary? Good citizens, loving family and friends, are murdered in cold blood; a heroic retired police officer gives his life for others ... again. We pray with the psalmist, “I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God” (Psalm 69:3).

On Nov. 30, 2021, a shooting occurred at the high school my niece and nephew attend in Oxford, Mich. They had attended school with the eventual assailant for years. Their friends were murdered. Other close friends barely survived being shot, including the grandchild of a retired LCMS pastor. The signs were all evident in the young man whose life had become captive to sin, death and the devil, a participant in the demonic. I think of how devastating this incident has been for my sister’s family. I thank God for their resilient faith in Christ and courage in the face of evil, even when answers are not easily at hand.

I now pray for the courage of the victims’ families in Buffalo, that Christ’s merciful love would surround them all and that they would look to Jesus’ cross and resurrection for eternal hope.

Today I think of the beautiful and ever-growing collage of saints in the LCMS. I think of your love and humility. I think of your clear confession and witness to Jesus Christ, a Jew from Palestine, whose racial identity few among us share. He is our precious Savior. I think of His zeal to reach the Jews, the Samaritans and the Syrophenician woman. I think of Simon from Cyrene, the African who bore our Savior's cross (Matthew 27:32), and his family who were vital members of the earliest church (Mark 15:21; Acts 11:20; Romans 16:13). I think of my pagan Slavic and German ancestors — apart from Christ and all hope — who were grafted into the family of God when they heard the witness to Jesus. I think of my own precious granddaughter, who has more African genetic material than German. I think of our black brothers and sisters whose hearts have been so won by Jesus and His Word that they hold the Gospel as the greatest treasure and confess the Lutheran faith from deep conviction, despite our many weaknesses and failings.

I thank God that in this dark world of sin and hatred, you are light in Christ. "Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness" (1 John 2:9). Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Paul says that "the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true" (Ephesians 5:9). Peter reminds the church, "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

Let us act as good citizens of this world as we demand reasonable laws and strict prosecution of evil doers to thwart evil. "For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ... Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law" (Romans 13:3–4, 8). It is a good work of love to practice civil righteousness toward our neighbor and to demand justice from our leaders. "Public remedy, made through the office of the public official, is not condemned, but is commanded and is God's work" (Apology of the Augsburg Confession XVI 59).

Please join me in praying for the saints of our LCMS Eastern District and their president, the Rev. Dr. Chris Wicher, that they would not lose heart, but be greatly empowered in their witness to Jesus, the light of the world.

May the words of Paul and Barnabas continue ever more to mark us: "For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth'" (Acts 13:47).

O Spirit, who didst once restore
Thy Church that it might be again
The bringer of good news to men,
Breathe on Thy cloven Church once more,

That in these gray and latter days
There may be those whose life is praise,
Each life a high doxology
To Father, Son, and unto Thee.

(Lutheran Service Book 834:4)

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison
President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
[LCMS.org/president](https://www.lcms.org/president)

Phone: 314-352-0014

June 2022

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Elder: 5 – Jim Frost 12 – Scot Kinnaman 19 – Jim Frost 26 – Kevin Robson	Altar Guild: 5 Spyers/Truebe 12 Asburry/Bergdolt 19 Brown/Patton 26 Keller/Janssen		1	2 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	3	4 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
5 Pentecost 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class	6 7:00 Board of Finance	7	8 7pm Basement Reno. Listening Post 6-8pm Joint Hymn Fest Rehearsals	9 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	10	11 <i>Pastor's day off</i> TBD Joint Hymn Fest Rehearsal
12 Holy Trinity 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class 4:00 Hymn Festival	13 -----Pastor at MO	14 District Convention-----	15	16 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	17	18 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
19 Trinity 1 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class	20	21	22	23 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	24	25 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
26 Trinity 2 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class	27	28	29	30 6:00 ThriVe Parent University		

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July 2022

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Elder: 3 – Scot Kinnaman 10 – Jim Frost 17 – Scot Kinnaman 24 – Kevin Robson 31 – Jim Frost	Altar Guild: 5 Spyers/Truebe 12 Asbury/Bergdolt 19 Brown/Patton 26 Keller/Janssen 31 TBD				1	2 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
3 Pentecost 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class	4 Church office closed	5	6	7 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	8	9 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
10 Holy Trinity 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class	11 7:00 Church Council	12	13	14 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	15	16 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
17 Trinity 1 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class	18	19	20	21 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	22	23 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
24 Trinity 2 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class	25	26	27	28 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	29	30
31 Trinity 2 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class						