



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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www.hopelutheranstl.org



✠ THE HOPE LUTHERAN ✠

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November 2022

Death is not the Last Word!

November has become one of my favorite times of the year. No, not because the gray skies and colder temperatures invade our lives (although I'll take cooler temperatures over the hot, humid "dog days" of St. Louis summers any day!). And no, I'm not even thinking of Thanksgiving when I express my fondness for November (Yes, turkey and stuffing are great, but the aftermath of being stuffed from gorging myself... well, not pleasant at all).

Why does November rank among my favorite times of the year? Because we get to focus on the end of time and the hope of glory in the life that God gives us in Christ Jesus. In short, even though November starts ushering us into the "death" of winter—with loss of daylight, barren trees, and gloomy landscapes—the Church Year reminds us that death is *not* the last word.

November begins with the glorious celebration of All Saints' Day (November 1). On this day—observed this year on November 6—we remember and thank God for all of the faithful Christians who have gone before us. We even give special thanks for those of our own congregation who have gone home to glory through Christian burial. The saints remind us that death is not the last word because they now rest from their labors and await the great and glorious resurrection of all flesh on the Last Day.



The wonderful hymn "For All the Saints" expresses both our unity with the saints who rest and our joyful expectation of joining them in eternal life:

*Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia! (LSB 677:3-4).*

During November we also observe the Last Sunday in the Church Year. We wait with eager and prepared anticipation of Christ's Second Coming, when He will return and rescue us from this valley of sorrows and take us to our true, eternal home with the blessed, holy Trinity.

We get to hear Jesus' parable of the Ten Virgins, five of whom are wisely prepared for the wedding feast and five of whom foolishly let the oil in their lamps run out (Matthew 25:1-13). The great hymn "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" links our hope of glory with the Holy Supper that we celebrate every Sunday:

*Zion hears the watchmen singing,
And all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
For her Lord comes down all glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious;
Her star is ris'n, her light is come.
Now come, Thou Blessed One,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son,
Hail! Hosanna!*

*We enter all / The wedding hall
To eat the Supper at Thy call (LSB 516:2).*

The joy of entering into the wedding of the Lamb (Jesus) and His Bride (the Church) shows that death is not the last word. Our Lord of Life who suffered death on the cross but then rose again promises to usher His faithful followers into His abundant life for all eternity! To paraphrase one pastor friend of mine:

Easter is Jesus' victory over death; All Saints' Day and the Last Day are our victory over death. This is why I have come to love November.

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Ars Morendi

The Latin "ars morendi" means "the art of dying." As God's holy, redeemed people in Christ, we learn to "die well" in the sure and certain hope of joining our Lord in eternal life. To aid us in the art of dying with hope, here are some notes from the LSB Agenda (volume of rites for pastoral care) on Christian Burial (pages 83-85).

Death is a consequence of the fall into sin (Gen. 3:19; Rom. 5:12). The coming of life incarnate into our world of death signals the death of death and the ultimate victory of life. Jesus meets death and grief head on (Luke 7:11-17; Mark 5:35-43; John 11:1-44) and transforms it by His own death, burial, and resurrection, thus giving us life.

In Holy Baptism we are immersed in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-11).... The burial rites themselves are a kind of journey that begins at the deathbed, leads to the funeral home and the church, and finally to the cemetery. They follow the believer as he departs this world with Christ through death to life.

In the burial rites, two emphases are held in tension: penitence and the resurrection (2 Sam. 12:15-23). The Kyrie, Litany, penitential psalms, and the ancient Christian hymn "In the Very Midst of Life" (Hymn 755) are examples of how the rites take seriously both death and the deep effect death has on us. In Christ, the sting of death is conquered so that the Christian sees, in the midst of death, the hope of the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. The various Scripture readings, hymnody, and the prayers in the rites testify to the glorious victory over death that is ours in Christ Jesus our Lord.

For Old Testament believers, deathbeds were a time of confession both of the faith and of the resurrection of the body. For example, Joseph confessed this hope in the presence of his sons before his death (Gen. 50:24-26). Job also confessed, "I know that my Redeemer lives..." pointing to his confidence in the resurrection of all flesh (Job 19:25). Christ calls death a sleep (Mark 5:39), and so for the Christian, the

hour of death is approached with the confidence of going to bed and falling asleep. In the rite of the **Commendation of the Dying**, the Christian hears the accounts of Christ's suffering and death and sees his dying in the light of the Savior's death. The rite offers the opportunity for the confession of the faith, as well as the confession of sins before death. The Lord's Supper may also be integrated into this rite. The deathbed may last hours or days. The rite allows for repeated and extended use over a period of days or many hours. In the event that death appears imminent, the rite may be abbreviated....

The **Funeral Service** is a public service of the Church. It is a public confession of the faith concerning death, burial, resurrection, and the life hereafter. In the funeral service the baptismal theme of death and resurrection with Christ is most prominent (Rom. 6:1-11). The service begins with the name of God spoken over the body of the baptized. The casket may be covered with a pall as a remembrance of being clothed with Christ in Holy Baptism (Gal. 3:27; Rom. 13:14). The baptismal creed (Apostles' Creed) is confessed, and the prayers confidently speak of the resurrection and new life given in Baptism. In the sermon the pastor has a unique opportunity to preach God's Word of Law and Gospel to many hearers who may not know the source of Christian comfort when a heart is troubled by the grief and sorrow of death. Here he can explain the connection between Christ's work of salvation in Baptism and the death of the Christian. The focus of the funeral service is the public proclamation of Christ crucified to this specific situation, as well as the comfort Christian's find in Christ's resurrection....

Notes from the Kantor

Martin Luther's desire to see all the arts, especially music, flourish in the service to the Word of God is well documented. His catechetical hymns are both musical and poetic companions to the six Chief Parts of his Large and Small Catechisms. They are meant not only objectively to teach the Word of God by placing it on the lips and in hearts of the people but are also musical means to communicate that life sustaining Word of God to the entire person. Through the music and poetry Christians can carry the teachings of Christ with them and use them to encourage their faith and its daily application to their lives. We are reminded of this power found at the intersection of text and tune in the following prayer.

The Choristers Prayer

Bless, O Lord, us thy servants who minister in thy temple: Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Therefore, what we sing is so important. It's never just about a good text or a good tune. It must be a combination of the two into one meaningful package. It is the responsibility of the church to continue the seek out and use the great hymns of the past (both long ago and recent), while also encouraging the current generation of hymn writers.

Our first Organ Vespers of the current *Music in a Sacred Space* season focused on three 16th-century Lutheran hymnwriters: Philipp Nicolai, Johann Herrmann, and Paul Gerhardt. These three men are looked upon as some of the "best of the best" in the beginning days of Lutheran hymnody. In February we celebrate the hymns of Lisa Clark, a living, breathing Lutheran hymnwriter who lives in our neighborhood. Many of the texts and tunes we will sing at that event were written especially for the hymn festival. These are the bookends to this ideal of using powerful texts and tunes to place the Word of God on our lips and in our hearts.

It is the church's responsibility to cultivate the next generation of hymnwriters and composers. It is also the church's responsibility to cultivate the next generation of church musicians, kantors, choir

members and congregation members who are well versed in the Lutheran liturgical tradition. It is the church's responsibility to give those young musicians the opportunity to cultivate, grow, and use the musical gifts that God has bestowed upon them.

At Hope we currently do this by supporting the Kantorei choral program for our youth. We provide solid, liturgical music within the context of the Divine Service and other prayer services. What more can we do? Could we provide more opportunity for teaching music through the lens of confessional Lutheran teachings? How might this look locally, regionally, or nationally?

Whatever the answer, the future is bright. The conversations I regularly have with our choristers are deep and meaningful. They understand what we are doing and why we do it that way. They are already seeing the fruits of hymnody and liturgy moving from their lips to their hearts to the outward actions in their lives.

This is why Martin Luther wrote his catechetical hymns – not just for youth, but for us all. Those hymns have also been added to over the centuries by other men and women. We are truly blessed with a large cache of wonderful hymns to place the Lutheran faith and doctrine on our lips, in our hearts, and in our lives.

In CHRIST,
Kantor Janssen

Upcoming Musical Events at Hope

Sunday, November 13

The choir from Lutheran South lends their song to our Divine Service. The choir is directed by Ms. Natalie Mayor.

Sunday, December 18

The Gateway Ringers handbell choir will share their Christmas program in our sanctuary. The program begins at 4:00 pm. A festive seasonal reception will follow.



ABOUT OUR CONGREGATION'S FUTURE: WE WANT TO LISTEN TO YOU

YOU – YES, YOU! – ARE INVITED TO JOIN US. We'd like every communicant member of the congregation to participate in the upcoming series of Saturday morning prayerful conversations about the gracious gift that God has given to our church family: Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church. **SERVING IN GOD'S MISSION** is a next step forward in Hope's planning process. Using *Re:Vitality* resources developed in the LCMS Office of National Mission, the outcome of these sessions will be a strategic ministry plan that will capture what's on our minds and hearts regarding Hope's vision, mission and purpose. We'll also develop 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.

Tentative Schedule for Sessions 8 & 9

Session 8: "SWOT" Analysis

December 3, 9:00 am-11:30 am

Session 9: "Creating Smart Goals"

December 17, 9:00 am-11:30 am

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

Basement Renovation Update

The third and final listening post to review, ask questions and comment on the proposed plan for the basement renovation was held Sunday Sept. 11 during the Bible Class Hour. At that time participants got to see the architects drawings and PowerPoint presentation. Additionally, the floors and other surfaces have been marked off with blue tape to indicate the proposed floorplan. We are eager to review the feedback thus far and hear any further thoughts, questions or concerns at this listening post. Following this event, the basement renovation committee will compile all feedback and share it with the architectural firm with the request to provide additional mock-up

drawings that include the feedback from the congregation. These new drawings will be presented at the October 30th Voters Meeting with a full presentation of where things stand to date as well as anticipated next steps as we continue to revise and refine what the congregation desires for these renovated spaces. Future listening posts will be scheduled as needed following the Voters Meeting.

Committee members: Pam Nielsen (chair), Kay Shoemaker, Julie Vigil, Julie Day.

What Makes for a Cheerful Giver?

St. Paul wrote to Church of Christ in Corinth: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). *God loves a cheerful giver.* But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, he gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God's sight. Abraham was. By faith, he prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel's God and they, His people.

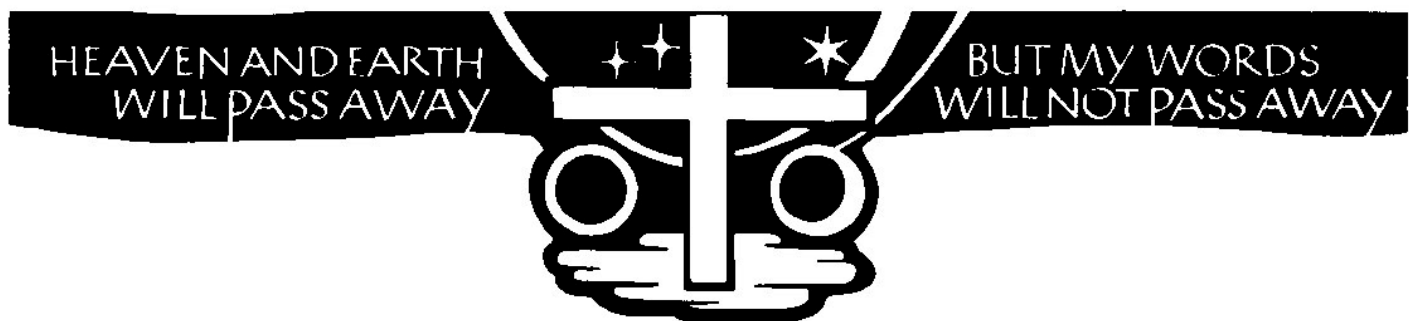
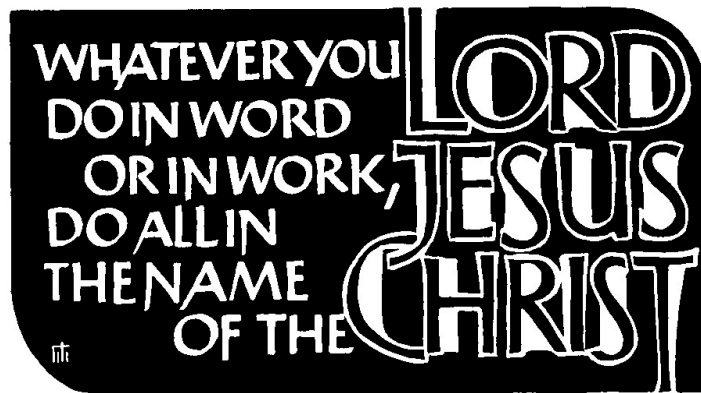
What more shall we say? For time would fail us to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to

whom they gave.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything – yes, even His life – enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty, we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ, give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart for the joy set before us. It's the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry:
lcms.org/stewardship



In the Sunday **Divine Service** God Himself comes in our midst to serve us through His Word and Sacrament. The *Augsburg Confession* makes this simple and profound statement about our worship: *“All ceremonies should serve the purpose of teaching the people what they need to know about Christ”* (AC, 24:3). That’s indeed what our liturgy does every Sunday. Here’s what we will hear and learn about Christ in the month of November:

Date	Day in Church Year	Gospel Reading	Gospel Focus (Theme of the Day)
November 6	All Saints’ Day	Matthew 5:1-12	End Time Christian Hope: Christ’s blessing for saints in heaven & on earth. Saints on earth suffer all sorts of shame, dishonor and persecution. But that does not deter us, because Jesus promises a greater gift in heaven, now enjoyed by saints who have gone before us.
November 13	22nd Sunday after Trinity	Matthew 18:21-35	The Unmerciful Servant - You and the person who has wronged you are both in great debt to God. You continue living only because God bears with you and forgives your debt! Whoever refuses to forgive his brother or sister in Christ puts himself outside of God’s grace.
November 20	Last Sunday of the Church Year	Matthew 25:1-13	End Time Christian Hope: prepared and waiting for Christ’s return. Only those who are prepared by God’s Word and Sacraments will enter the heavenly wedding feast with Bridegroom Jesus. Thus we live prepared and focused on Christ.
November 27	1st Sunday in Advent	Matthew 21:1-9	The Lord who Comes - The Lord Jesus enters Jerusalem to shouts of joy: <i>Behold, your King comes; He is just and having salvation.</i>

MR. & MRS. CLUB

On Tuesday, October 25, about 14 of us from our group met at Laclede Groves to visit and have lunch with two of our members who are now residents there. Fran Ettling arranged for us to gather in a private room there and get together for fellowship and lunch. A great time was had by all of us, and it was good to see each other again, especially the ones that haven’t been able to gather with us at church when we have had our lunches there. Thanks, Fran, for organizing this. Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas season. Looking forward to gathering in the New Year.

PRO-LIFE ISSUES

Although we have good news in Missouri after the Dobbs decision, there is still reason to be concerned. Nationwide, surgical abortions are going down, but chemical (also called medication) abortions are rising. According to a Lutherans For Life article, “Although the total number of babies put to death inside their mothers is dwindling, medication abortions now make up the majority of abortions before ten weeks’ gestation. The ‘abortion pill’ is breaching many of the barriers that keep abortionists’ instruments at bay.” They even mention several states and “telemed” abortions.

The Thrive director also shared this concern at a recent conference. She talked about the DIY abortions with the two-drug regimen. This is dangerous territory with many complications. There is some good news though. There are doctors who have had success stopping the abortion for women who changed their minds after the first pill. However, time is of the essence.

Lutherans For Life has information on its website about this- For help, contact the 24/7 Abortion Pill Reversal Helpline at 877.558.0333 or email help@apr.life to connect with a medical professional about reversing the medication abortion. One may also visit the website @ www.abortionpillreversal.com.

Please continue to pray for the end of abortion. Thrive is one of the pro-life pregnancy centers helping women and children. Thrive Parent University is at Hope every Thursday night. Hope members volunteer once per month. There is a possibility that we will begin serving dinner again soon. Details are still being worked out, so please watch the bulletin for updates. For more information, contact Judy Maichel at mjmaichel@juno.com.

QUARTERLIFE FELLOWSHIP **LCMS Young Adult Group**

Quarterlife Fellowship is an LCMS Young Adult Group for those in their 20s/30s. They meet for Bible Study at Village Lutheran in Ladue on Tuesdays at 7:00pm.

They also plan Frisbee, service events, and other social activities. For more information about their events, contact Luke Maichel <lehciaml@gmail.com>. Join in and bring friends!



MISSOURI DISTRICT NEWS

This fall is a great time to use your tax dollars to send a child to a Lutheran school in Missouri! There are currently more than 90 children on the waitlist to receive an educational scholarship through the state's new tax credit program, MOScholars. Taxpayers have until the end of the calendar year to help these families and schools. These tax credits are different than a donation. Contributors are simply telling the State of Missouri where they would like a portion of their taxes directed, which through the MOScholars program means they can go towards a Lutheran student. The process is simple to complete. Reserve your credits today by heading to our website: <https://mo.lcms.org/mo-scholars/>. Thank you for your participation in MOScholars through the Missouri District!

LITURGICAL BANNERS OPPORTUNITY

The Board of Finance has approved a project to obtain new banners for each season of the church year for our beautiful sanctuary. The Altar Guild is researching banner designs and will contribute funds to the project. At a minimum each banner would cost \$500. To have a full set of two banners for each church season, the ultimate goal will be to have at least 10 designed and made. If you would like to make a special contribution to this project, you can mark your donation "Banners" and place it in the offering basket. Our dream would be to have the first set of banners ready for Advent and Christmas, but at the latest we'd like to have new banners by Easter. Thank you for your consideration.

Phone: 314-352-0014

November 2022

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Elder: 6 – Scot Kinnaman 13 – Chad Rolland 20 – Scot Kinnaman 27 – Kevin Robson	Altar Guild: 6 Spyers/Truebe 13 Asbury/Bergdolt 20 Brown/Patton 27 Keller/Janssen	1	2 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal	3 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	4	5 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
6 All Saints' Day(observed) 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/Sunday School 11:30 Confirmation 11:30 Choir rehearsal	7	8	9 NO Kantorei Rehearsal	10 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	11	12 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
13 Trinity 22 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/ Sunday School 11:30 Confirmation 11:30 Choir rehearsal	14 7:00 Board of Elders	15	16 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal	17 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	18	19 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
20 Last Sunday of the Church Year 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/ Sunday School 11:30 Confirmation 11:30 Choir rehearsal	21	22	23 NO Kantorei Rehearsal	24 Thanksgiving 9:30 Matins Church office closed	25 Church office closed	26 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
27 Advent 1 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/ Sunday School 11:30 Confirmation 11:30 Choir rehearsal	28	29	30 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal			