



# Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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[www.hopelutheranstl.org](http://www.hopelutheranstl.org)



## WEEKLY NEWS ✠ November 20, 2022

### ✠ 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. 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 ✠

BY FAITH WE ARE PREPARED FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

"The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:1-11). The arrival of the bridegroom will be sudden and unexpected. Therefore you are to be watchful and ready like the five wise virgins. "For you know neither the day nor the hour" when the Son of Man is to return. (Matt. 25:1-13). The lamps are the Word of Christ. The oil in the lamps is the Holy Spirit, who works through the Word to create and sustain the flame of faith in Christ. The foolish are those who do not give proper attention to the working of the Holy Spirit in baptism, preaching, and the supper, and so their faith does not endure. The wise, however, are those who diligently attend to these gifts of the Spirit, and who therefore have an abundance of oil. The flame of faith endures to the end. By God's grace they are received into the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth created by the Lord for the joy of His people (Is. 65:17-25).

### ✠ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ✠

WAKE, AWAKE, FOR NIGHT IS FLYING (LSB 516)

Wake, Awake, for Night, written by the Lutheran Pastor Phillip Nicolai (1599), is referred to as the King of the Chorales. Outside of its outstanding confession concerning the coming Christ it entails some beautiful hidden gems. Each verse is written in the shape of a chalice, alluding to the Christ and the host of heaven we now participate with in the Lord's Supper. The German original contains three initials at the beginning of each verse - vs. 1 - W, 2 - Z, and 3 - G. These belonged to Count Wilhelm Ernst a student of Nicolai's who died a year before. Its specific occasion for writing was a horrible plague that claimed thousands with as many as thirty people being buried each day. Their committals were said to be in the view of Nicolai's from his office window. Thus it serves as a comfort to the dying and their families, causing it to be appropriately heard not only at weddings but also funerals. It is based primarily on Matthew 25; the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. Earlier translations both in *TLH* and *LW* missed the reference to the Lord's Supper in verse two (Das Abendmahl). *LSB* has rightly restored it. The hymn makes the text seen to its hearers and from leads one from the beckoning of the Word of God to the Supper to full participation with Christ and all the saints in heaven. (from *logia.org*)

### ✠ 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 149 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- *PONDER* today's Hymn of the Day, "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"

*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 ADVENT - "To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul" (November 27, 2022)

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| Old Testament: | <b>Jeremiah 23:5-8</b> —God promises to send a King known as "The Lord Our Righteousness."                       |
| Psalm:         | <b>Psalm 24</b> —"The earth is the LORD's, and all it's fullness." "The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory." |
| Epistle:       | <b>Romans 13:8-14</b> —Our salvation is nearer now. Therefore, let us live life soberly and watchfully.          |

✠ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✠

TODAY WE WELCOME INTO OUR HOPE FAMILY Nicholas Weber and Jeanne Weber! They, of course, have already been a part of our Hope family, but now it is official! They transfer to us from Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tacoma, Washington.

POINSETTIA PLANTS will be placed in the altar area during the Christmas season. If you wish to place a plant in honor or memory of someone, please pick up an envelope from the narthex or call Carol, 314-752-0525 or 314-691-3619, **before December 12**. Poinsettias are \$8.00 each and are yours to take home anytime during the Christmas season.

SERVING IN GOD’S MISSION: *Special Planning Session:* Past and new participants in Hope’s strategic planning process – that is, **every member of our congregation** – are invited and encouraged to attend a **special SGM planning session taking place at church 7:00-9:00 pm on Monday evening, 28 November**. This session will focus on further expansion and refinement of work already begun on our congregation’s vision statements. This special session is in addition to the final regular scheduled SGM sessions coming up on Saturdays in December (9:00 am on 3 and 17 December). We need your input; come and contribute the lively conversation as we continue to make progress!

MIASS will host a reception after the Gateway Bell Ringers service on Sunday, December 18. The committee is asking for help from the congregation to supply homemade Christmas cookies for the reception. If you can donate 1 dozen cookies, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Please bring your cookies that Sunday morning and leave them in the back cooking kitchen. We are looking to accumulate about 6 dozen total. Thanking you in advance for your help.

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.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, November 20: **Matthew 25:2 – “Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.”** A truly wise man, as Jesus once said, builds on the Word of Jesus. There is no other foundation which will stand. Any other path is a foolish one. His Word leads to life and to depart from His Word leads to death. Clinging to His Word, we know we have His blessing.

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✠ October 30 - November 12		
ATTENDANCE	FINANCIAL	
Sunday: 126	October 30 - November 12	Year to Date thru October
	<u>Actual</u> <u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>Budgeted</u>
	Income: \$9,491 \$11,084	Income: \$286,394 \$240,778
	Expense: \$10,718 \$10,949	Expense: \$244,523 \$246,229
THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✠ November 20, 2022		
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>2<sup>nd</sup> Floor:</b> Early Childhood Sunday School	MONDAY
10:15 – Coffee Hour	<b>Basement:</b> Primary – Junior High Sunday School	TUESDAY
10:30 – Bible Study/ Sunday School	<b>Basement Auditorium:</b> Romans – Daily Bread of the Soul Pastor Asbury	WEDNESDAY NO Kantorei rehearsal
11:30 – Schola Rehearsal		THURSDAY Thanksgiving Day- 9:30 Matins Church office closed
11:30 – Youth Catechism Class		FRIDAY Church office closed
		SATURDAY