



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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WEEKLY NEWS ✠ December 11, 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 ✠

JOHN THE BAPTIZER PREPARES THE WAY FOR THE LORD

The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: *"Prepare the way of the Lord..."* (Isa. 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah's coming through repentance, for *"all flesh is grass"* (Isa. 40:6). Now He asks from prison, *"Are you the one who is to come...?"* (Matt. 11:2). Jesus' works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord's hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The *"stewards of the mysteries of God"* (1 Cor. 4:1) still deliver Christ's overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God's people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.

✠ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ✠

HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING (LSB 345)

Although earliest manuscript copy dates from the tenth century, this text is possibly as old as the fifth century. It is based on the Latin hymn *Vox clara ecce intonat* and its 1632 revision *En clara vox redarguit*. The text in the Psalter Hymnal is a revision of both Edward Caswall's (PHH 438) translation in his *Lyra Catholica* (1849) and the translation in *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (1861). Stanzas 1-3 contain references to Christ's first coming, but stanza 4 surely refers to the second coming, and stanza 5, the only stanza addressed to God, is a doxology. William H. Monk composed MERTON and published it in *The Parish Choir* (1850). The tune has been associated with this text since the 1861 edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. The tune's title is thought to refer to Walter de Merton, founder of Merton College, Oxford, England.

✠ 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 85 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- **PONDER** today's Hymn of the Day, LSB 345, "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

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 ✠

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT - "Shower, O heavens!" (December 18, 2022)

Old Testament: **Deuteronomy 18:15-19**—A Prophet like Moses.

Psalm: **Psalm 111**—"He sent redemption to his people; Holy and awesome is his name!"

Epistle: **Philippians 4:4-7**—Rejoice in the Lord always.

Holy Gospel: **John 1:19-28**—John the Baptizer is the voice crying in the wilderness.



✧ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✧

TOMORROW IS THE LAST DAY TO ORDER POINSETTIA PLANTS to 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. Poinsettias are \$8.00 each and are yours to take home anytime during the Christmas season.

COME ONE, COME ALL TO DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS! Please join us at 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 17 to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Many hands make light work!

THE GATEWAY RINGERS will present handbell music for the Christmas season at Hope Ev. Lutheran on Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 pm. Please come enjoy the music the Gateway Ringers will share with us!

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.

TAXPAYERS TO THE STATE OF MISSOURI—both individuals and businesses—now have the unique opportunity to direct up to 50% of their state taxes to provide scholarships for qualifying children to attend a Lutheran school. The Missouri State Treasurer’s Office launched a new tax credit program called MOScholars. The program allows organizations like the Missouri District to convert these tax dollars into scholarships for qualifying students attending LCMS schools. By pre-paying up to fifty percent of your state tax liability that you will have to pay regardless, you are able to help provide Christian education for children. To date, taxpayers have worked with the District through MOScholars to provide scholarships for 23 students to attend Lutheran schools. There are currently 65 additional students awaiting scholarships for this school year. The deadline for helping these students is December 31. Directing taxes to Lutheran education through this program is as simple as completing an online form and pre-paying a portion of state taxes in the amount of the credit reservation. The Missouri District website (mo.lcms.org) contains more information on MOScholars, as well as the links to get the process started. Contact Leah Sieveking at the District office at 314-590-6211 or leah.sieveking@mo.lcms.org with any other questions. Thank you for your participation in MOScholars through the Missouri District.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, December 11: **Matthew 11:10** - “**This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’**” John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus’ ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out His disciples to preach “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 24:47). We never outgrow the need for repentance – for examining our lives, turning away from our sins, and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive his forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness.

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✕ November 20 – December 3						
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Sunday: 85	FINANCIAL					
	November 20 – December 3			Year to Date thru October		
		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
	Income:	\$14,960	\$11,159	Income:	\$286,394	\$240,778
	Expense:	\$8,906	\$11,270	Expense:	\$244,523	\$246,229
THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✕ December 11, 2022						
SCHEDULE		SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS		WEEK’S CALENDAR		
9:00 – DIVINE SERVICE Live stream at www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl		2 nd Floor: Early Childhood Sunday School		MONDAY 7:00 Board of Finance		
10:15 – Coffee Hour		Basement:		TUESDAY		
10:30 – Bible Study/ Sunday School		Primary – Junior High Sunday School		WEDNESDAY 5:00 Kantorei rehearsal 5:30 Advent Soup Supper 6:30 Advent Evening Prayer		
11:30 – Schola Rehearsal		Basement Auditorium:		THURSDAY		
NO Youth Catechism Class		Romans – Daily Bread of the Soul Pastor Randy Asburry		FRIDAY		
				SATURDAY 9:00-11:00 SGM 11:00 Sanctuary Decorating		
