



# Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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## WEEKLY NEWS ✠ December 18, 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 POINTS EVERYONE TO THE MESSIAH

The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mount Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Deut. 18:15-19). God, therefore, raised up a prophet like Moses—the Messiah, the Christ. God came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from heaven; the earth opened her womb and brought forth Salvation (Introit) through the blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Luke 1:39-56). The fruit of her womb is the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose (John 1:19-28). In Jesus we are delivered from fear and anxiety. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:4-7).

### ✠ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ✠

#### O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (LSB 357)

This ancient advent hymn originated in part from the "Great 'O' Antiphons," part of the medieval Roman Catholic Advent liturgy. On each day of the week leading up to Christmas, one responsive verse would be chanted, each including a different Old Testament name for the coming Messiah. When we sing each verse of this hymn, we acknowledge Christ as the fulfillment of these Old Testament prophecies. We sing this hymn in an already-but not yet-kingdom of God. Christ's first coming gives us a reason to rejoice again and again, yet we know that all is not well with the world. So along with our rejoicing, we plead using the words of this hymn that Christ would come again to perfectly fulfill the promise that all darkness will be turned to light. The original text created a reverse acrostic in Latin: *"ero cras,"* which means, "I shall be with you tomorrow." That is the promise we hold to as we sing this beautiful hymn.

### ✠ 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 111 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- **PONDER** today's Hymn of the Day, LSB 357, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**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 ✠

#### CHRISTMAS DAY (December 25, 2022)

Old Testament: **Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38**—God's glory fills the Tabernacle  
Psalm: **Psalm 2**—The Messiah's triumph and kingdom  
Epistle: **Titus 3:4-7**—The washing of rebirth  
Holy Gospel: **John 1:1-18**—The Word became flesh

✂ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✂

FLOWER VASES AT THE ALTAR are placed to the praise and glory of God by Kay and Joel Shoemaker in honor and thanksgiving for Kantor Janssen and his wife, Keri, and for the blessing of Christian hymnody.

TODAY AT 4:00 P.M. THE GATEWAY RINGERS will present handbell music for the Christmas season at Hope. Please come enjoy the music the Gateway Ringers will share with us!

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED in and purchased gifts for the “Christmas Giving Tree”. All gifts were delivered the week of December 11<sup>th</sup> to the perspective charities- Lydia’s House and Our Little Haven. Both organizations were most grateful for the donations. Merry Christmas!

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](http://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](mailto: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 18: **Philippians 4:4 - “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.”** Life was no easier for the Philippians than it is for us. They had the same sorrows, sicknesses, and disappointments as we have. And yet St. Paul tells them to rejoice in the Lord. We have an abiding joy, a peace which passes all understanding, because we know our Lord Jesus and His love for us. This gives us confidence in the face of every hardship; it gives us strength to lead lives in imitation of Jesus’ own generous love.

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✂ November		
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Sunday: 93	FINANCIAL	
	November	Year to Date thru November
	<u>Actual</u> <u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>Budgeted</u>
	Income: \$26,343   \$24,076	Income: \$312,737   \$264,854
	Expense: \$41,638   \$23,571	Expense: \$286,162   \$269,799
THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✂ December 18, 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> 10:15 – Coffee Hour 10:30 – Bible Study/ Sunday School 11:30 – Schola Rehearsal 11:30 – Youth Catechism Class	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Floor:</b>  Early Childhood Sunday School	MONDAY
	<b>Basement:</b>  Primary – Junior High Sunday School	TUESDAY
	<b>Basement Auditorium:</b>  Romans – Daily Bread of the Soul Pastor Randy Asburry	WEDNESDAY NO Kantorei rehearsal 5:30 Advent Soup Supper 6:30 Advent Evening Prayer
		THURSDAY
		FRIDAY
		SATURDAY Christmas Eve 4:00 Festal Divine Service