



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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WEEKLY NEWS ❖ January 1, 2023

❖ 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 ❖

THE LORD IS CIRCUMCISED TO FULFILL THE LAW AND SHED HIS BLOOD FOR US

Circumcision, the covenant God made with Abraham and his Seed, sealed His promises and blessings in the flesh, but it also signified the burden of the Law. When the Lord Jesus came in the flesh to redeem His people, He subjected Himself to that Law in order to fulfill the Law and release all people from its bondage. "He was called Jesus" (Luke 2:21), because He came to save His people from their sins. Jesus first shed His blood on our behalf when "He was circumcised" (Luke 2:21), thus foreshadowing His shedding of blood as He sacrificed Himself upon the Cross. We are "justified by faith" in His blood (Gal. 3:24). Therefore, we "are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise" (Gal. 3:29), not by the circumcision of our flesh, but in the flesh and blood of Christ Jesus, the true Seed of Abraham. "Baptized into Christ," we belong to Him and are clothed and covered by His righteousness (Gal. 3:27). Holy Baptism is the true circumcision made without hands, by which the Lord Jesus puts His Name on us and blesses us (Num. 6:22, 27).

❖ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ❖

JESUS! NAME OF WONDROUS LOVE (LSB 900)

As you might imagine, there haven't been a plethora of hymns written for the Circumcision and Name of Jesus. So in the mid-1800s, William W. How (1823-1897), an Anglican bishop, scholar and hymnist, penned "Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love." He was a humble bishop, living among the people in a poverty-stricken part of London, declining appointments to more lucrative bishoprics and riding in buses rather than carriages. How wrote more than fifty hymns, including five in LSB (523, 677, 781, 816 [st. 3] and 900). His hymns have a reputation not so much for poetic beauty as for expressing powerful but sometimes unexpected theological truths in everyday language. (from *The Word in Song*)

❖ 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 8 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- *PONDER* today's Hymn of the Day, LSB 389, "Let All Together Praise Our God"

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 ❖

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD (January 8, 2023)

Jesus is baptized to fulfill all righteousness—in our place.

Old Testament: **Joshua 3:1-3, 7-8, 13-17**—Israel crosses the Jordan and enters the Promised Land.

Psalm: **Psalm 85**—"All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord."

Epistle: **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**—Christ is our righteousness, our sanctification, and our redemption.

Holy Gospel: **Matthew 3:13-17**—Jesus is baptized to fulfill all righteousness for us.

✧ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✧

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 11th 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) 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.

SACRED MUSIC & TALK FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON... You can listen 24/7 to sacred talk and music for the 12 days of Christmas at issuesetc.org, lutheranpublicradio.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, TuneIn, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, January 1: **Luke 2:21** - “**And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.**” There it is: the shortest Gospel lesson of the whole Church Year. It is for the festival of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus. What more do you need to know than the name of Jesus — “the Lord saves.” That’s who Jesus is: the Lord who saves us sinners. That simple Gospel message is the foundation of our faith and the strength to live out our faith.

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✧ December 4-17					
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK		FINANCIAL			
Sunday: TBD		December 4-17		Year to Date thru November	
		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Income:		\$11,322	\$10,877	Income: \$312,737	\$264,854
Expense:		\$17,798	\$12,261	Expense: \$286,162	\$269,799
THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✧ January 1, 2023					
SCHEDULE	SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS		WEEK’S CALENDAR		
9:00 – DIVINE SERVICE	2 nd Floor:		MONDAY		
Live stream at	NO Sunday School		Church office closed		
www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl	Basement:		TUESDAY		
NO Coffee Hour	NO Sunday School		WEDNESDAY		
NO Bible Study/ Sunday School	Basement Auditorium:		NO Kantorei rehearsal		
NO Schola Rehearsal	NO Adult Bible Class		THURSDAY		
NO Youth Catechism Class			FRIDAY		
			7:00 Epiphany Festal Divine Service		
			SATURDAY		