



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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WEEKLY NEWS ✠ January 15, 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 coming of the Messianic kingdom means the restoration of creation. The sign of this restoration is that "the mountains shall drip sweet wine" (Amos 9:11-15). When the elements of a fallen creation fail and run short at a wedding feast, our Lord Jesus steps in to restore creation and miraculously changes water into an abundance of the very best wine (John 2:1-11). With this sign, Christ manifests His glory. The "back" of God (Ex. 33:12-23) is revealed to those who believe. The hour will come when Jesus will again manifest His glory by taking creation's curse into His own body to release us from its power. The Bridegroom will give His life for the Bride (Eph. 5:22-32), and from His side will flow water and blood, the holy sacraments by which she is cleansed and made one with Him. Through this sacrificial love of Christ we are enabled to "love one another with brotherly affection . . ." and to "outdo one another in showing honor" (Rom. 12:6-16).

✠ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ✠

Our Hymn of the Day today, *The Only Son from Heaven* (LSB 402), has an interesting background. The following is taken from "The Word in Song: Hymn of the Day Studies," available at lcms.org. "This hymn holds many distinctions. It is one of the earliest Lutheran hymns, as it was written around 1524, right about the time that Martin Luther began in earnest to revive the hymnody of the Church. Hymns from that period are well known for being substantive, and this one is no exception. The author of our hymn was a woman, Elisabeth (Meseritz) Cruciger (1500-1535), an ex-nun from Rega who married a theologian named Caspar Cruciger in 1524. She and her husband became close friends of Martin and Katherine Luther, and could often be found around the Luther dinner table. Given her age and the times in which she lived, it is nothing short of amazing that Luther and his colleague, Kantor Johann Walter, approved this text for the earliest Lutheran hymnals. The hymn was not included in *The Lutheran Hymnal* of 1941, but was reintroduced in the Missouri Synod with its inclusion in *Lutheran Worship* in 1982. It has slowly but steadily gained acceptance and popularity in our circles since that time."

✠ 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 67 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- *PONDER* today's Hymn of the Day, LSB 402, "The Only Son from Heaven"

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 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY (January 22, 2023)

Jesus reveals Himself as the Savior of the nations, to be received in faith.

Old Testament: **2 Kings 5:1-15a**—Naaman is cleansed in the Jordan River.

Psalm: **Psalm 121**—"My help comes from the LORD who made heaven and earth"

Epistle: **Romans 1:8-17**—The Gospel of Christ is God's power of salvation for everyone who believes.

Holy Gospel: **Matthew 8:1-13**—Jesus heals a leper and a centurion's servant—He is the Savior of the nations.



✂ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✂

OPEN DATES for Altar Vases are January 22, and February 5, 12, and 19. Vases are \$25 each and are yours to take home after the service. Please call Carol, 314-691-3619, to reserve a date or place your name on the calendar in the narthex.

THERE WILL BE AN ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE for all ages on Friday, February 3 at 7 pm in the Hope basement auditorium. No experience necessary, all dances will be taught. The dance will be called by Ruth Temme. Bring a snack or cookies to share. RSVP and Questions: Contact Nicholas Weber, n@nicholasedwinweber.com.

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE AM850 & kfuo.org: Study John 2-4 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m.), continue studying the book of Exodus on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m.), and study the 7th petition and conclusion of the Lord's Prayer on Concord Matters (1/21 at 10:00 a.m.).

HOPE EV. LUTHERAN IN ST. LOUIS will host the at hymn festival featuring the works of Lisa Clark, hymnwriter and author, on Sunday, February 5 at 4:00 pm. Lisa is a St. Louis native, alum of Hope Lutheran school, and serves as Senior Editor at Concordia Publishing House. The hymn festival will feature hymn texts written as part of her Ph.D. studies at the University of Bristol, England. The festival will be led by organist Jacob Weber and the combined choirs of Hope and Ascension Lutheran churches. Hope Lutheran is located at 5218 Neosho St. in St. Louis, MO. Visit hopelutheran.stl.org for more information.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for the [2023 LCMS Life Conference](#), which will be held March 2-3 at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis and online. The conference will provide Lutherans with resources to faithfully proclaim what God's Word teaches about life, health, marriage and family.

Presentations will focus on three main subject areas:

- Advocacy for the sanctity of human life and God's design for marriage and the family;
- Teaching God's Word on these topics to people of all ages; and
- Sharing Christ's love and mercy with a focus on life, health and the family.

Featured presenters will include Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, Deaconess Dr. Tiffany Manor, Timothy Goeglein, and Rev. Michael Salemink. Participants are invited to attend either in person or online. [In-person registration](#), which includes meals and snacks, is \$49 per person. [Online registration](#) (which can be used by an individual, couple, family or group) is \$29. Both in-person and online attendees will have access to recorded sessions for 60 days after the conference.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, January 15: **Ephesians 5:27 - "...so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."** Our Lord has cleansed us with His blood — in His sight we are now pure and holy. He has given Himself, laying down His life for us. Now we are His spotless and beautiful bride. By His sacrifice, we are moved to sacrifice. By His cleansing, we find a desire to ourselves be clean and live blamelessly as He is blameless.

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✂ December						
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Sunday: 74	FINANCIAL					
	December		Year ending 2022			
		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
	Income:	\$34,381	\$24,084	Income:	\$347,118	\$288,938
	Expense:	\$35,400	\$27,149	Expense:	\$321,562	\$296,948

THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✂ January 15, 2023		
SCHEDULE	SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS	WEEK’S CALENDAR
9:00 – DIVINE SERVICE Live stream at www.facebook.com/hopelutheran.stl	2nd Floor: Early Childhood Sunday School	MONDAY
10:15 – Coffee Hour	Basement: Primary – Junior High Sunday School	TUESDAY
10:30 – Bible Study/ Sunday School	Basement Auditorium: Romans— Daily Bread for the Soul <i>Pastor Randy Asburry</i>	WEDNESDAY 5:00 Kantorei rehearsal
11:30 – Schola Rehearsal		THURSDAY 6:00 – ThriVe Parent University
11:30 – Youth Catechism Class		FRIDAY
		SATURDAY <i>Pastor’s day off</i>