



# Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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



## WEEKLY NEWS ❖ February 19, 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 ❖

#### FAITH ALONE

The seeing are blind, while the one who is blind can see (Luke 18:31–43). Jesus tells the twelve that He is going up to Jerusalem to suffer and die and rise again, but they cannot understand or grasp what He is saying. The meaning of His words is hidden from their sight. However, as Jesus makes His way up to Jerusalem, a blind man calls out to Him for mercy. This blind man sees that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior, for he calls Him "Son of David." Indeed, Jesus is the Lord's anointed, the keeper of sheep (1 Sam. 16:1–13) who goes to lay down His life for the sheep. He is the incarnate love of the Father who suffers long and is kind, who is not puffed up, who never fails us (1 Cor. 13:1–13). Jesus opens the eyes of the blind (Is. 35:3–7) to see Him not according to outward appearances of lowliness, but according to His heart of mercy and compassion. Those who behold Him thus by faith follow Him to the cross through death into life.

### ❖ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ❖

In 1986, Lutheran pastor Rusty Edwards (b. 1955) opened his Bible with the intention of creating a Bible study on the actual life and unique ministry of Jesus: What on earth did Jesus really do? As I prayed, studied, and thanked God for the life of Jesus, I began to write down some of his works. The list grew longer. Suddenly, I gazed down at the list and the list looked almost like a hymn. (Rusty Edwards, "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness," *CrossAccent* 15, no. 2 [2007]: 39) Edwards then set aside the Bible study and composed "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness," a celebration of the marvelous works of the incarnate Son of God. This hymn is deeply descriptive of the life and works of Jesus. It is filled with biblical imagery. Yet Jesus is not explicitly mentioned by name until the third stanza. The hymn begins by celebrating the freedom that is brought by the "light" (John 1:4–9) who breaks the darkness. Out of that light comes freedom and all its benefits (described in st. 1). Read John 8:34–36. In the second stanza humanity (the children), the spiritual realm (demons), and the whole of creation (burning sand) are made whole by the one who is "living water." Read John 4:7–15. The hymn concludes with the explicit identification of "the One" as the incarnate Word. We have been moved from table (Communion) to font (Baptism), and now the hymn concludes with a focus on the grace that table and font bring. Edwards saves the best for last. Read John 3:16–17. (taken 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 146 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- **PONDER** today's Hymn of the Day, LSB 849, "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

**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 LENT (February 26, 2023)

*Jesus is tempted as we are, and thus He is the way out of our sin.*

Old Testament: **Genesis 3:1-21** – The Fall into sin (our need for a Savior).

Psalm: **Psalm 32** – "You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble"

Epistle: **2 Corinthians 6:1-10** – Now is the day of God's salvation.

Holy Gospel: **Matthew 4:1-11** – The Temptation of Jesus.



✠ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✠

FLOWER VASES AT THE ALTAR are placed to the praise and glory of God by Peter and Marcia Lange in thanksgiving for the blessings of children and grandchildren.

HELP WANTED: Are you interested in resurrecting Hope’s Easter Breakfast? This year, we will celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 9. We are looking for people to coordinate and pitch in to bring back this great way to celebrate our Lord’s Resurrection and enjoy our fellowship in Him. If you are interested, please contact Kevin Robson (in person or 314-604-4281 or [kevin.robson@lcms.org](mailto:kevin.robson@lcms.org)) no later than February 26.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, February 19: **Luke 18:35 – “As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.”** The last known words of Martin Luther were found scratched on a slip of paper next to his death bed: “We are all beggars; this is true.” All that we have is a gift of God. We are all beggars before Him. Knowing this leaves us with nothing but thankfulness in our hearts.

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. 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.

SOLID, SERIOUS, SUBSTANTIVE... Issues, Etc. is a radio-talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Season of Lent, The Hymn “From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee,” The Movie “Living,” Witnessing to Homosexuals and more. You can tune in live weekdays from 3-5 p.m. on KFUE, 850 AM in St. Louis. You can also listen on-demand at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE AM850 & [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org): We begin Lent with an Organ Recital and Worship Service on Ash Wednesday (2/22 at 11:00 a.m.), study John 9-10 on Sharper Iron's "The Word Became Flesh" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m.), and study 2 Timothy 1-4 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m.). Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or the KFUE Radio app!

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✠ January 29 - February 11																			
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Sunday: 92	FINANCIAL																		
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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>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor: Early Childhood Sunday School	MONDAY 7:00 – Board of Elders																	
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 Pastor Randy Asburry	WEDNESDAY 5:00 Kantorei rehearsal 7:00 Ash Wednesday Divine Service																	
11:30 –NO Schola Rehearsal		THURSDAY 6:00 – ThriVe Parent University																	
11:30 – Youth Catechism Class		FRIDAY																	
		SATURDAY Pastor’s day off																	