



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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WEEKLY NEWS ✠ March 12, 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 ✠

JESUS OVERCOMES THE STRONG MAN

Jeremiah was charged with speaking evil when he spoke the Word of the Lord (Jer. 26:1-15). So also, Jesus is accused of doing evil when in fact He is doing good. He casts out a demon from a mute man so that he is able to speak (Luke 11:14-28). But some said Jesus did this by the power of Beelzebub, Satan. Like Pharaoh of old, their hearts were hard (Ex. 8:16-24). They did not recognize the finger of God, the power of the Holy Spirit at work in and through Jesus. Jesus is the Stronger Man who overcomes the strong man. He takes the devil's armor of sin and death and destroys it from the inside out by the holy cross. He exorcizes and frees us by water and the Word. We were once darkness, but now we are light in Christ the Lord (Eph. 5:1-9). As children of light, our tongues are loosed to give thanks to Him who saved us.

✠ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ✠

LORD OF OUR LIFE AND GOD OF OUR SALVATION - LSB 659

Jesus Christ, the Lord Who has the words of eternal life (John 6:68). Christ is the One Who defeats Satan, the accuser, and helps His saints (Rev. 12:10). Though they are surrounded by foes with unfurled banners, yet the Lord's banner of love waves over His Church (Song of Sol. 2:4) and preserves Her. Though darkness surrounds the believers, His Light of the Gospel shines through the darkness. Though the Church is assaulted by devils, still the Lord's armor (panoply; Eph. 6) defends Her. This hymn is unusual in that the second stanza of the text is sturdy and loud; the text then tapers off from billows to prayers for peace (and a wise organist will match this tapering). He brings His peace to our hearts, to the Church, to the world, and is in fullness in heaven. (from logia.org)

✠ 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 136 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- *PONDER* today's Hymn of the Day, *LSB 659*, "Lord of Our Life"

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 LENT (March 19, 2023)

Jesus feeds the 5000 and shows Himself to be the true Bread of Life for His people.

Old Testament: **Exodus 16:2-21** — God gives "manna" — bread from heaven.

Psalm: **Psalm 132:8-18** — "For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place"

Epistle: **Acts 2:41-47** — The fellowship of believers around Word and Sacraments.

Holy Gospel: **John 6:1-15** — Jesus feeds the 5000; He is Bread from heaven.



✂ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✂

EASTER LILIES will be used on Easter Sunday in the altar area. If you wish to place a plant in honor or memory of someone, please pick up an envelope from the narthex or call Carol, 314-752-0525/314-691-3619, by March 27. Lilies are \$9.00 each and are yours to take home after the service on Easter.

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 ASAP (in person or 314-604-4281 or kevin.robson@lcms.org).

HELP TAKE OUR CONGREGATIONAL PLANNING TO THE NEXT LEVEL. All congregation members are welcomed to join us here at Hope on Saturday, March 25, 8:30 am to noon. The “Serving in God’s Mission” planning initiative has resulted in our congregation’s adoption – at our January Voters Assembly meeting – of Purpose and Mission statements, as well as seven Planning Categories: Worship and Music, Spiritual Care, Witness and Outreach, Education, Life Together, Stewardship and Facilities. Our next step is to further develop and expand Vision statements and SMART Goals for each of these seven categories. This work has already begun, but it’s time to finish the job so that our Church Council can really “take the ball and run with it.” No advance preparation needed for this Saturday, March 25 session; come as you are and help us to think through our future together, under God’s grace and timing.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, March 12: **Luke 11:21-22 - “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.”** Jesus has disarmed Satan in a most unusual way: He has disarmed him by allowing Satan to cast all his weapons into Jesus. Satan has nothing left to attack us with – he spent it all on Jesus. And now Jesus is our stronger man. He guards and keeps us and ours. We have none to fear.

CHRIST FOR YOU *this week on KFUE AM850 & kfuo.org*: Study John 13-14 on Sharper Iron’s “The Word Made Flesh” (weekdays at 8:00 a.m.), hear a Lenten Organ Recital and Worship Service on 3/15 at 11:00 a.m., and study Hosea 6-10 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m.). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or the KFUE Radio app!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! Join us in supporting Lutheran Students. You are invited to the LESA 19th Annual “A Night for Kids” Dinner and Auction. An evening of cocktails, dinner, silent auction and fellowship to benefit area Lutheran elementary school students. Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 6 PM. Orlando’s Event Center, 2050 Dorsett Village, Maryland Heights, MO 63043. Purchase tickets by March 31 at info@lesastl.org.

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✂ February 19 – March 4		
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Sunday: 81	FINANCIAL	
	February 19 – March 4	
	Actual	Budgeted
	Income:	\$9,272 \$14,228
	Expense:	\$9,001 \$12,408
	Year ending 2022	
	Actual	Budgeted
	Income:	\$347,118 \$288,938
	Expense:	\$321,562 \$296,948

THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✂ March 12, 2023		
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
10:15 – Coffee Hour	Basement:	TUESDAY
10:30 – Bible Study/ Sunday School	Primary – Junior High Sunday School	WEDNESDAY NO Kantorei rehearsal 7:00 Lent Evening Prayer
11:30 –Schola Rehearsal	Basement Auditorium:	THURSDAY 6:00 – ThriVe Parent University
NO Youth Catechism Class	Romans – Daily Bread for the Soul Pastor Kevin Robson	FRIDAY
		SATURDAY Pastor’s day off