



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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✠ THE HOPE LUTHERAN ✠

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Share life and hope in our Savior Jesus.

May 2023

"Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord"

The Day of Pentecost serves as the proper conclusion to the Easter season. Easter Sunday itself is the "eighth day" of Holy Week. It's the day of new creation begun by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We then celebrate Easter for "a week of Sundays"—a whole seven weeks. The Day of Pentecost, then, comes as the "eighth Sunday" of the Easter season. On Pentecost Day, the Holy Spirit comes and inaugurates the "new creation" of the Church through the preaching of the Gospel.

The Hymn of the Day for the Day of Pentecost is "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord" (LSB 497). This hymn draws our attention and our praise to the works of the Holy Spirit.

Background

As he did with several hymns, Martin Luther began with an existing song or chant and then added more stanzas to sing the Gospel into people's hearts and minds. For "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord," Luther began with this antiphon for the Vigil of Pentecost:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in them the fire of your love, you who through manifold tongues

have gathered the peoples into the unity of the faith.¹

Luther was very fond of this verse, even saying: "The hymn 'Come, Holy Spirit Lord and God' was composed by the Holy Ghost himself, both words and music."² In 1524, Luther improved the German version of the antiphon and added stanzas two and three. Lutherans have been joyously singing of the works of the Third Person of the Holy Trinity since that time.

So Many Ongoing Works

We commonly and rightly attribute the work of conversion to the Holy Spirit. When a person is made a Christian—both by hearing the Word of God and by being baptized—the Holy Spirit gets all the credit. As Luther said in the Small Catechism on the Third Article: "*the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.*"

That is not the *only* work of the Holy Spirit, though. He accomplishes so much more in the Church and the world, as the stanzas to our hymn show.

*Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord,
With all Your graces now outpoured*



¹ Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns, vol. 1, p. 421.

² Luther's Works, vol. 53, p. 265.

*On each believer's mind and heart;
Your fervent love to them impart.
Lord, by the brightness of Your light
In holy faith Your Church unite;
From ev'ry land and ev'ry tongue
This to Your praise, O Lord, our God, be sung:
Alleluia, alleluia! (LSB 497:1)*

The Third Person of the Trinity continues to bestow His gifts—"graces"—upon our minds and hearts. These gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation come to every Christian by means of Baptism, the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper. As a fruits of these gifts, the Holy Spirit also imparts "fervent love" and grants unity in faith to all who believe in and confess Jesus Christ crucified and risen. Our Savior Jesus is the "light of the world" who shines the brightness of life and hope in the world darkened by sin and death.

*Come, holy Light, guide divine,
Now cause the Word of life to shine.
Teach us to know our God aright
And call Him Father with delight.
From ev'ry error keep us free;
Let none but Christ our master be
That we in living faith abide,
In Him, our Lord, with all our might confide.
Alleluia, alleluia! (LSB 497:2)*

The Holy Spirit is our greatest and best educator, our "guide divine." He teaches us to know both the Father and the Son, as well as the life we receive from them. By His work, we treasure both our created physical life and our new spiritual life of faith in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. By guiding us in learning God's Word of truth, the Spirit keeps us from error by guiding us to Jesus Christ, "the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). The Holy Spirit keeps us and the whole Christian Church "with Jesus Christ in the one true faith" (Small Catechism, Third Article).

*Come, holy Fire, comfort true,
Grant us the will Your work to do
And in Your service to abide;
Let trials turn us not aside.*

*Lord, by Your pow'r prepare each heart,
And to our weakness strength impart
That bravely here we may contend,
Through life and death to You, our Lord, ascend.
Alleluia, alleluia! (LSB 497:3)³*

In stanza 3, we call the Spirit "holy Fire, comfort true." The "holy Fire" name reminds us of the tongues of fire at the first Pentecost (Acts 2:1-3). The Spirit is also our true comfort, both as He calms our fears and as He strengthens us in the Christian life. The rest of stanza 3 highlights that Christian life. We pray for the will to abide in His service all our days, to remain steadfast in time of trial, and to be strengthened in heart at all times. While we know and admit our weaknesses, we rely on the Spirit to give us strength and bravery in remaining faithful to our Lord Jesus.

To sum it up, the Holy Spirit first makes us Christians and then He keeps us Christians. He also leads and enables us to:

"Share life and hope in our Savior Jesus."

It is the Holy Spirit who has been leading us through our strategic planning here at Hope. As He blessed the saints of God on that first Pentecost Day, so has He blessed us these past months. He has poured out His "graces" (gifts) and caused the Word of life (Jesus) to shine so that we may confess the true Gospel for the life of the world. As we begin putting this plan into practice in our life together at Hope, let's also sing this hymn as our constant prayer.

"Alleluia. The Holy Spirit will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia." (Verse for Pentecost Eve: John 14:26; Liturgical Text)⁴

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On Facebook: www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl

³ Lutheran Service Book, 497. Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003495.

⁴ Lutheran Service Book: Propers of the Day, p. 350.

Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job’s already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought – He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather,

we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry
lcms.org/stewardship



Support our LCMS Schools

with MOScholars & The Missouri District

The Missouri District has been approved as an Educational Assistance Organization under the State of Missouri – Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Tax Credit Program. Under this program, taxpayers will be able to direct qualified dollars to the scholarship program at no extra cost and receive tax credits for their participation. These funds will then be used to provide scholarships for selected students at LCMS schools throughout the state of Missouri.

- To begin this process head to: **mo.lcms.org/mo-scholars**
- After completing all forms and reserving your tax credits, please remember to print your confirmation form and send it and your check (made payable to Missouri District LCMS) to:
Missouri District LCMS
660 Mason Ridge Center Drive, Suite 100
St. Louis, MO 63141
Note: Add “MOScholars” on the memo line of the check.
- Additional questions about the tax credit component of the program can be directed to Leah Sieveking at 314-590-6211 or leah.sieveking@mo.lcms.org.

You're a blessing to students and families at Lutheran schools throughout Missouri.
Thank you for your participation in MOScholars through the Missouri District!



Missouri District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

“All ceremonies should serve the purpose of teaching the people what they need to know about Christ” (Augsburg Confession, 24:3). This month we keep celebrating the season of Easter—the most important time of the Christian year. The Church celebrates Easter not just on one day (Easter Sunday), but for a whole “week of Sundays,” that is, seven Sundays. Christ’s resurrection life is our new life. Each week we hear more of that wonderful Good News. Christ Jesus is the first fruits of the dead. He gives us His victory over sin, death, and hell. What great news! It gives us Christians a whole new purpose and outlook for life. Here’s what’s coming up in Divine Services for the month of May:

Date	Day in Church Year	Gospel Reading	Gospel Focus (Theme of the Day)
May 7	5th Sunday of Easter	John 16:5-15	THE SINGING CHURCH - Jesus explains the threefold work of the Holy Spirit: 1) to reveal our sin; 2) to exalt Christ and His righteousness; and 3) to reveal the judgment on the prince of this world. For all this we sing Christ’s praises!
May 14	6th Sunday of Easter	John 16:23-33	THE PRAYING CHURCH - Since God has marvelously saved us and made us holy people, we learn to pray and trust Him. That’s the Christian’s “holy life.”
May 21	7th Sunday of Easter	John 15:26-16:4	THE EXPECTANT CHURCH - After Jesus ascends, His people look forward to His return. In the mean time, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to comfort us and keep us in the faith.
May 28	Feast of Pentecost	John 14:23-31	THE HOLY SPIRIT CREATES THE CHURCH -- The Holy Spirit comes to give us faith and sustain us in the faith. That is, He directs our attention to Jesus our Savior. “Pentecost” means 50 days after Easter.

BASEMENT RENOVATION UPDATE

The Basement Renovation Committee met with the architects and construction manager before Easter. The goal of that meeting was to review all feedback of the proposed designs, compare notes and bring clarity on a number of outstanding points. With this meeting we have entered a new phase of the project and have done so at the urging of congregational leadership.

An important step was to review and clarify the scope of the renovation project. We noted for the architects that both the Brannon Street door to the basement and the parking lot door would be included as we seek modernized doors that work with the security system. Additionally, we noted there will heating and

cooling issues to address especially in the Sunday school room.

The main kitchen was a key area discussed with the architects. The committee has asked for a more detailed plan regarding the kitchen in line with the way the congregation uses that space, keeping functionality as a top priority. The next step will be to receive updated plans with greater detail about surfaces, fixtures, etc. and price estimates attached to those plans. We have stressed that the congregation will want choices and that we are making an investment for both the present and the future—we want materials that will last and which provide little effort to maintain and keep clean.

We’ve clarified with congregational leadership that any issues related to structure -

leaking walls - will be addressed outside the scope of the renovation project. Those issues are being actively addressed. This was a great concern for the committee, and we are very glad for the determination to fix the leaking walls once and for all.

As soon as we have updated drawings and dollar amounts attached to the plans we will share them with the congregation and seek feedback as we did in phase one. As always, please know that the committee desires to hear any concerns, feedback, ideas, etc.

Your church basement renovation committee is:

- Kay Shoemaker
- Julie Vigil
- Julie Day
- Pam Nielsen

LFL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Lutherans For Life National Conference is scheduled for October 11-13 in Erlanger, Kentucky.

"Lutherans For Life national and regional conferences allow our team to come directly to you with the For Life Gospel message. These gatherings are wonderful times spent together where we can provide valuable information and encouragement to you, your community, and the life-affirming work you are engaged in."

In addition to the wonderful pro-life speakers, there will be visits to the Answers in Genesis Creation Museum and Ark Encounter. These are amazing places to visit and even have a Fearfully and Wonderfully Made exhibit.

For more information about the conference, go to <https://lutheransforlife.org/conference/>

The Lutherans For Life website has a lengthy list of resources and articles on life issues-including topics like abortion, adoption, post-abortion ministry, chastity, family living, etc. Their vision is for "every Lutheran, both individually and in community, upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society to do the same."

PARENT UNIVERSITY

Thrive holds their weekly Parent University at Hope on Thursday evenings for the moms in their program. Each Thursday there is Bible study and a parenting lesson. Hope volunteers serve dinner to them on the second Thursday of the month. If you would like to help, please contact Judy Maichel.

CINCO DE MAYO BABYSITTING

It's nacho average babysitting night! Enjoy a night out on Cinco de Mayo while students at Lutheran South watch your kids.

- Friday, May 5 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Lutheran South
- Children age 3-12
- Activities include a movie, games, and crafts. Dinner provided.
- **Register by May 3**
at bit.ly/CincoDeMayoBabysitting

Donations accepted to support the school's mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

SALEM LADIES' GUILD SPRING RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE

This event will take place in the Fellowship Hall of Salem Lutheran Church, 8343 Gravois Road in Affton on Wednesday, May 10th from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and again on Thursday, May 11th from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

COME SHOP THE SALE...You never know what treasure you might find!

Donated items will be accepted during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday beginning April 24th through May 10th. All donations should be placed on the stage in the Fellowship Hall.

Phone: 314-352-0014

May 2023

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal	4 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	5	6 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
7 <u>Easter 5</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/Sunday School 11:30 Schola rehearsal	8 7:00 Board of Elders	9	10 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal	11 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	12	13 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
14 <u>Easter 6</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/Sunday School 11:30 NO Schola rehearsal	15	16	17 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal	18 The Ascension of Our Lord 7:00 pm	19 7:00pm English Country Dance	20 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
21 <u>Easter 7</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/ Sunday School 11:30 NO Schola rehearsal	22	23	24 NO Kantorei Rehearsal	25 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	26	27 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
28 <u>Pentecost</u> 8:00 Schola rehearsal 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class 11:30 NO Schola rehearsal	29	30	31 NO Kantorei Rehearsal	Elder: 7 – Scot Kinnaman 14 – Kevin Robson 18 – Jim Frost 21 – Scot Kinnaman 28 – Jim Frost	Altar Guild: 7 Spyers/Truebe 14 Asbury/Bergdolt 21 Brown/Patton 28 Keller/Janssen	