



# Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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



## ✠ THE HOPE LUTHERAN ✠

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Share life and hope in our Savior Jesus.

June-July 2023

### Time of the “Green Meadow”

Many refer to Memorial Day weekend as the “unofficial start of summer.”<sup>1</sup> With this cultural marker of time, we generally change our routines, participate in more outdoor activities, take time for travel and vacations, etc. Most schools break for the summer months. Even in our churches, regular activities also ease up and take a break.

Something similar happens in the liturgical calendar. From December through May, we have participated in the festival half of the Church Year. Our focus in worship and prayer have been on the magnificent saving acts of our Lord Jesus Christ—His coming, His nativity, His appearing to the nations, His journey to the cross, His passion, death, and resurrection, and His ascension to the Father’s right hand. The festival half of the Church Year concludes with the Day of Pentecost—the coming of the Holy Spirit—and the Feast of the Holy Trinity.

This first half of the Church Year is marked by more services of hearing God’s Word and receiving His Sacrament. Distinct moods are easy to discern—the anticipation of Advent, the somberness of Lent, the exuberant joy of Easter.

With the beginning of summertime comes the non-festival half of the Church Year. It is often called “the green season.” We who follow the One-Year Lectionary call these weeks “Sundays after Trinity.” Those who use the Three-Year Lectionary call them “Sundays after Pentecost.” Compared to the festival half of the Church Year, it might be

tempting to think that nothing really happens during “the green season.” But that is not so.

*Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Services* gives both another name for and the focus of “the green season”:

This long stretch of Sundays (from twenty-three to twenty-eight weeks, depending on the timing of Easter in any given year) is also known in some circles as “Ordinary Time.” It is “ordinary,” not in the sense of mundane or unimportant, but as that which is normal and normative, as the baseline standard of the Church’s ongoing life on earth. During this time, the Church settles into the regular rhythm and stable patterns of practice within which the people of God are able to rest themselves and to grow and mature in the confidence of their confession.<sup>2</sup>

The *Companion to the Services* volume also offers a calm, soothing picture for getting the most out of this time of the Church Year:

In *Around the Year with the Trapp Family* (1955), Maria Augusta von Trapp describes the second half of the Church Year, following Pentecost and Holy Trinity, as “the Green Meadow” because of the green paraments and vestments that are used for the Sundays throughout the Time of the Church. The image of a green meadow is

<sup>1</sup> Of course, in the northern hemisphere, summer officially begins on the summer solstice, June 20 or 21, depending on the year.

<sup>2</sup> *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Services*, 255.

especially appropriate to the character of this time, which is tranquil, peaceful, and gentle, yet living and life-giving. Here, the nations find a home in the lush green pastures of the Word of Christ and in the outstretched branches of His tree of life.<sup>3</sup>

While we may refer to the green Sundays as “after Trinity” or “after Pentecost,” as a matter of convenience and timekeeping, this time of year is not really governed or shaped by those festivals. Again, from the *Companion to the Services*:

Each of the Sundays throughout this time is rather a participation in the eternal eighth day of the resurrection, even as the Church on earth continues to live under the cross. The Church lives, therefore, not so much *after* but *within* the Paschal Mystery of her Lord Jesus Christ. During the second half of the liturgical year, she settles into the ordinary rhythm of her life within the narrative of His Gospel and all that He continues to do and teach.<sup>4</sup>

At first blush, our time in “the green meadow” of the second half of the Church Year seems to have little organization to it. Some say there is no rhyme or reason to the “Trinity Season.” Others, though, do find broad themes or phases. Based on the Sunday lectionary readings, we can see some broad themes that center around important festivals or times of the year:

1. The recent Pentecost festival,
2. The Nativity of John the Baptist (June 24),
3. St. Michael and All Angels (September 29),
4. The End of the Church Year (November).

This gives us four phases to “the green season.” We can add further details to this broad outline.

### **Phase I**

#### **Trinity 1-5**

#### **Broad Theme: “The Church of the Spirit”**

The Church arises and flourishes under the influence of the Holy Spirit. He originates and guides what happens in the Church.

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<sup>3</sup> *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Services*, 255-56; referring to Maria Augusta von Trapp, *Around the Year with the Trapp Family* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1955), 148-50.

### **Phase II**

#### **A. Trinity 6-11**

#### **Broad Theme: “Christian Faith”**

#### **B. Trinity 12-18**

#### **Broad Theme: “Christian Love Toward One’s Neighbor”**

The pattern of Christian sanctification is growing in faith toward God and love toward neighbor. The words of John the Baptist become the motto for us Christians: “*He must increase, but I must decrease*” (John 3:30).

### **Phase III**

#### **Trinity 19-25**

#### **Broad Theme: “The Christian’s Struggle against Satan”**

The Church lives under the cross and struggles against the forces of Satan as he fights against God’s kingdom. St. Michael’s victory over Satan is, in fact, Christ’s Easter victory. Note that Reformation Day falls in this phase.

### **Phase IV**

#### **Trinity 26-27 (Last Sunday)**

#### **Broad Theme: “Our Christian Hope”**

The Last Day and Christ’s return will come. We all must appear before the judgment seat of God, but the forgiveness, life, and salvation in Christ reveals a new reality. Now, we walk by faith, but then we will see our Lord face to face.

May our gracious Father, our living Lord Jesus, and our life-giving Holy Spirit grant us all a peaceful and vibrant “green season.” As He makes us lie down in the green pastures of this time of year, He also promises to give us growth as branches grafted into His tree of life. As He tends us, He may indeed prune us from time to time, but He still abides in us and we in Him (John 15:1-5).

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Hope’s Website: <http://www.hopelutheranstl.org>

On Facebook: [www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl](http://www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl)

<sup>4</sup> *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Services*, 256-57.

## What Do You Want?

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the “Shepherd Psalm.” There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we *actually* suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don’t know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.



Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here’s the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry  
[lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

*“All ceremonies should serve the purpose of teaching the people what they need to know about Christ”* (Augsburg Confession, 24:3). We now enter the *non-festival half* of the church Year. During the first half of the Church year we hear of the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we begin the **“Trinity Season,”** the time of year when we focus on the life of the Church and the Christian life. Here’s what’s coming up in the Divine Service for June and July as we continue to learn and live the Christian faith and life:

Date	Day in Church Year	Gospel Reading	Gospel Focus (Theme of the Day)
June 4	<b>Feast of Holy Trinity</b>	John 3:1-17	<b>THE TRIUNE GOD</b> - God reveals Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We spend our lives faithfully trusting His goodness. “Trinity” and “Triune” refer to God being three persons in one God.
June 11	<b>First Sunday after Trinity</b>	Luke 16:19-31	<b>THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS</b> - The Holy Spirit creates and sustains the Church by the Word of God. The life of the Christian is marked first and foremost by hearing the Word of God given through the apostles and prophets.
June 18	<b>Second Sunday after Trinity</b>	Luke 14:15-24	<b>THE GREAT INVITATION</b> - God invites us to the fullness of His heavenly gifts. Some make excuses to be absent; others see their need for Jesus’ healing and life. Every Divine Service (Communion Service) is a foretaste of Jesus’ eternal feast.
June 25	<b>Third Sunday after Trinity</b>	Luke 15:1-10 or Luke 15:11-32	<b>THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION</b> - Jesus comes to seek and save that which is lost – us! God and all angels rejoice when sinners repent. That’s what the Church is all about: bringing sinners to repentance and faith in Jesus’ forgiveness.
July 2	<b>Fourth Sunday after Trinity</b>	Luke 6:36-42	<b>THE CONGREGATION OF SINNERS</b> - Jesus has nothing but sinners in His Church. Because of His saving work, He changes us into people who learn to forgive each other just as He first forgave us.
July 9	<b>Fifth Sunday after Trinity</b>	Luke 5:1-11	<b>FOLLOWING JESUS</b> - Jesus reveals Himself as God in the miraculous catch of fish, and Peter recognizes his sinfulness. That’s life in Jesus’ Church. We confess our sin; Jesus graciously forgives. In this way we “catch people alive” as we bring them into the “boat” of the Church.
July 16	<b>Sixth Sunday after Trinity</b>	Matthew 5:20-26	<b>THE NEW RIGHTEOUSNESS</b> - In Baptism our Lord Jesus makes us holy, that is, set apart from the world and belonging to God. Everything right about Jesus is given to us as pure gift. Therefore, we holy people live life in His perfect “rightness.”
July 23	<b>Seventh Sunday after Trinity</b>	Mark 8:1-9	<b>THE SANCTIFICATION OF OUR BODIES</b> - When Jesus feeds the 4000, He shows us that the body is a good thing. After all, He created us to have bodies. When Jesus Christ saves and forgives us, He helps not just the soul, but also the body.
July 30	<b>Eighth Sunday after Trinity</b>	Matthew 7:15-23	<b>FALSE PROPHETS</b> - Jesus warns us against false teachers and their deceptive teachings. It is God’s Word of grace that builds us up and gives us an eternal inheritance. Only good trees – those recreated by Christ – can bear good fruits.

## PARENT UNIVERSITY

Hope will be hosting the dinner for Parent University Thursdays, June 8, and July 13. We meet at 5:15pm and finish cleaning up by 7:00pm. If you can help serve either month, please contact Judy Maichel.

## LUTHERANS FOR LIFE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

For information about the Lutherans For Life National Conference, you may visit <https://lutheransforlife.org/conference/>.

It will be October 11-13 in Erlanger, Kentucky. Part of the conference will include visits to the Answers in Genesis Creation Museum and Ark Encounter.

There is an amazing “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made” exhibit at the museum. Registration is now open.

## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Ascension’s Free Outdoor Concert Series will again take place **Saturdays, June 3 – July 1 at 7:00 pm.**

The following is a schedule of concerts. A big thanks to our Music Director, Gabe Maichel, for organizing this series.

### June 3

The Knights of Swing  
(Jazz Big Band)

### June 10

Fanfare  
(Cover Band)

### June 17

Gerard Erker & Friends  
(Bluegrass & Folk)

### June 24

Side X Side  
(Percussion Ensemble)

### July 1

Violin and the Silver Screen  
(Cinematic Scores on Violin & Accompanying Ensemble)



## NEW “LECTIONARY KICK-START” PODCAST DEBUTS

“**L**ectionary **K**ick-start,” a new podcast hosted by the faculty of **C**oncordia **S**eminary, **S**t. **L**ouis, is now available on most major streaming services.

The podcast aims to spark the thoughts of pastors and teachers as they take the first steps in developing sermons and lessons plans for the week’s lectionary readings.

New 20-minute episodes will be added weekly each Monday. Each episode will feature two Seminary professors, **D**r. **D**avid **S**chmitt and **D**r. **P**eter **N**afzger, discussing their initial impressions of the upcoming lectionary texts. Schmitt serves as the Gregg H. Benidt Memorial Professor of Homiletics and Literature, professor of Practical Theology and also as chairman of the Department of Practical Theology. Nafzger is an associate professor of Practical Theology. The podcast is hosted by Jessica Bordeleau, coordinator of digital publishing.

“Lectonary Kick-start” can be found on most podcast platforms including Spotify, Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts and streamed on most devices. It also can be found on the Concordia Theology website at [concordiatheology.org](http://concordiatheology.org).

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# June 2023

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Elder:</b> 4 – Scot Kinnaman 11 – Kevin Robson 18 – Scot Kinnaman 25 – Jim Frost	<b>Altar Guild:</b> 4 Spyers/Truebe 11 Asburry/Bergdolt 18 Brown/Patton 25 Keller/Janssen			<b>1</b> 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>
<b>4</b> <u>Holy Trinity</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/Sunday School 4:00 Organ Vespers	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>
<b>11</b> <u>Trinity 1</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/Sunday School	<b>12</b> 7:00 Board of Finance	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>
<b>18</b> <u>Trinity 2</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/ Sunday School	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>
<b>25</b> <u>Trinity 3</u> 9:30 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/ Sunday School	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	<b>30</b>	

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# July 2023

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Elder:</b> 2 – Scot Kinnaman 9 – Kevin Robson 16 – Scot Kinnaman 23 – Mark Maichel 30 – Mark Maichel	<b>Altar Guild:</b> 2 Spyers/Truebe 9 Asbury/Bergdolt 16 Brown/Patton 23 Keller/Janssen 30 Temme/Mussmann					<b>1</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>
<b>2</b> <u>Trinity 4</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/Sunday School	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Independence Day Church Office Closed	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>
<b>9</b> <u>Trinity 5</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/Sunday School	<b>10</b> 7:00 Church Council	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>
<b>16</b> <u>Trinity 6</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/ Sunday School	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>
<b>23</b> <u>Trinity 7</u> 9:30 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/ Sunday School	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <u>Trinity 8</u> 9:30 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/ Sunday School	<b>30</b>					