



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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WEEKLY NEWS ✠ September 17, 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 ✠

ANXIOUS BONDAGE vs. CONFIDENT TRUST

"You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24-34), for they require two contrary forms of service. Worry is the worship given to the false god of mammon, an unbelieving anxiousness and focus on the things of this world. Faith is the worship of the true God, a confident trust that He is a loving Father who will care for all of our needs in both body and soul. The widow of Zarephath served God – that is, she believed the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah that the bin of flour would not be used up nor would the jar of oil run dry (1 Kings 17:8-16). He who feeds the birds and clothes the flowers will certainly provide for our daily needs. For He has already provided for our eternal needs, clothing us with Christ's righteousness in Baptism and feeding us His body and blood for our forgiveness. With such confidence we are liberated from worry and freed to do good with our material resources, especially to those who are of the household of faith (Gal. 5:25-6:10).

✠ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ✠

THE HYMN OF THE DAY FOR TODAY, What God Ordains is Always Good (LSB 760), was a combined effort by Samuel Rodigast (text) and Severus Gastorius (tune). Rodigast, the son of a German Lutheran pastor, was on the philosophical faculty of the Greyfriars Gymnasium in Berlin. The text was written to comfort Severus Gastorius upon a serious illness. Gastorius was cantor of Jena, Germany. The hymn first appeared in print in 1681 and is noted to be a favorite of the choir school Gastorius taught. Johann Sebastian Bach used the tune *WAS GOTT TUT* in seven of his cantatas.

✠ 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 760, "What God Ordains is Always Good"*

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 ✠

ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS (September 24, 2023)

Old Testament: **Daniel 12:1-3** – The cosmic battle between God's faithful and those who reject Him.

Psalms: **Psalms 91** – "He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways."

Epistle: **Revelation 12:7-12** – War between God's angel armies and the forces of the devil.

Holy Gospel: **Matthew 18:1-10** – In the conflict between God's kingdom and the forces of darkness, God's people receive His kingdom as little children.



✠ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✠

OPEN ALTAR VASES for Sunday, Sept 24. Vases are \$25.00 each and are yours to take home after the service. If you wish to place flowers on one of these dates, take an envelope from the narthex and put your name on the flower calendar in the narthex, or call Carol, 314-691-3619 to make arrangements.

DO YOU HAVE A LOVE FOR TEACHING CHILDREN GOD’S WORD? The Sunday School needs 2 more co-teachers. Contact Kay Shoemaker to volunteer to teach or ask questions. keshoemaker@gmail.com

THE CHURCH COUNCIL WOULD INVITE YOU TO ATTEND the Budget Town Hall Meeting scheduled for Sunday, September 24 immediately following bible class in the fellowship hall. This annual event allows for congregation input as the budget is being developed, prior to the budget being approved at the October 29 Voters Assembly meeting. The Board of Finance will make additional financial information available to the congregation by Sunday, September 17. We will present an update on the current financials and an overview of budget opportunities for the 2024 fiscal year. Again, the main purpose of the meeting is to receive input and guidance from the congregation on items that should be considered in the upcoming years. The Council finds this input extremely useful and makes the final budget approval much easier. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

KANTOR IS LOOKING FOR HOST HOMES to host students and chaperones for the choir from Seward, NE when they perform their Hymn Festival at Hope on Friday, October 20. Hosting is easy! Got an air mattress and some space on the living room floor? Perfect! Can you make some eggs or pancakes for their breakfast? Wonderful! We are looking for 10-12 homes to host groups of 3 students and 1 chaperone. Email Kantor at mjanssen@hopelutheranstl.org to help out.

SERVING IN GOD’S MISSION UPDATE: Hope is continuing to build ministry plans that closely reflect our established mission and vision statements. A Smart Goal planning workshop will take place here at church on Saturday, November 4, 10:00 am to noon, addressing opportunities in a number of Hope’s ministry areas. For those Hope members who have already expressed interest in participating, you’ll receive additional emailed information in coming days about the specifics of this workshop and RSVP information. If you’re interested in participating (and we’d love to have you!) and have not yet “signed on” to this SGM effort, please let Kevin Robson (kevindrobson@gmail.com) know and he’ll connect you to one of our congregation’s planning groups.

BACKYARD ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE FOR ALL AGES on Sunday, October 15th at 2:00 pm at the home of Nathan and Caroline Maichel, 3212 Hilvin Drive, St. Louis, MO 63129. No experience necessary, all dances will be taught. The dance will be called by Ruth Temme. Sign up for bringing a snack, dessert or drink to share. Admission is free but limited to 60 people. If you have questions or to RSVP contact Nicholas Weber, n@nicholasedwinweber.com

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, September 17: **Matthew 6:25 – “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on.”** Our anxieties and fears all come down to one thing: worrying that we will not have what we think we need. But God is our loving heavenly Father. He will always care for us, His will is always best, and He actually knows what we actually need. That confidence should set us free from worry and make us free for service according to the callings God has given us.

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✠ August 27-September 9				
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Sunday: 84		FINANCIAL		
		August 27- September 9		Year To Date through August
		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>Budgeted</u>
		Income: \$11,640	\$13,502	Income: \$255,278 \$234,127
		Expense: \$18,456	\$11,833	Expense: \$215,066 \$213,924

THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✠ September 17, 2023		
SCHEDULE	SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS	WEEK’S CALENDAR
9:00 –DIVINE SERVICE Live stream at www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl	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: Luther’s Large Catechism Pastor Asburry	WEDNESDAY
11:30 – Schola Rehearsal		THURSDAY 6:00 – ThriVe Parent University
		FRIDAY
		SATURDAY Pastor’s Day Off