



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

5218 Neosho St, St. Louis, MO 63109 • 314-352-0014

www.hopelutheranstl.org



✠ THE HOPE LUTHERAN ✠

Vol. 100, No. 8

Share life and hope in our Savior Jesus.

October 2023

"Renewing for Life and Hope"

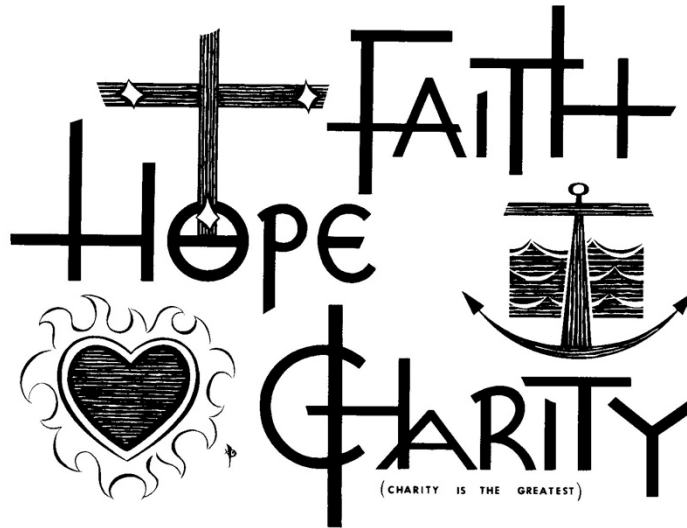
God Makes All Things New

God is in the business of taking old things and making them new. We live in a world that is broken by sin and plagued with death. People and things get old, wear out, and reach their expiration date. This was never God's plan, of course. In the beginning, He made a perfect world that would have lasted forever. Human beings, the crown of His creation, would have lived forever in a perfect relationship with Him and with one another.

Adam and Eve's fall into sin changed all of that (see Genesis 3). Yet God is ever merciful and faithful. He forgives, restores, and makes new. He gives life and that life gives us hope. Immediately after the fall into sin, He promised a Savior (Genesis 3:15). Centuries later He delivered on that promise by sending His Son, the Word of God who "became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

Through those centuries before Jesus came, suffered, died, and rose again, God made many promises to restore and renew His people. We see one such promise in Isaiah 43:19: "Behold, I am

doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." The preliminary fulfillment of this promise came when God brought His people back from exile in Babylon. The ultimate fulfillment, though, comes in our Savior Jesus. Colossians 2:17 helps us see that Old Testament events and promises point us to Jesus. "These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ."



Now that our Lord Jesus has suffered, died, and risen again, God still promises to make things new. He promises to make us new. "When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of

regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:5-8).

The entire Bible—inspired and given by God Himself—is His story of taking old things and making them new. In fact, the end of the biblical

story gives us a lasting promise that keeps us focused and hopeful. *"He who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5). The Lutheran Study Bible provides this comment on God's promise: "The new creation has already begun to appear through the preaching of the Gospel and the work of the Spirit. However, it will not be completed until the day of Christ's return" (p. 2233).*

Proclaiming God's Renewing

God's people, made new by His forgiveness in Christ Jesus, also take old things and make them new. As we receive His renewing forgiveness, life, and salvation, we also bear witness to this great Good News. We receive new life in Jesus, and we want others to know and rejoice in this new life. We have hope for life that extends into eternity, and we want others to have that same hope. We want people around us—family members, friends, next door neighbors, people in our community—to be made new in the salvation that comes from Jesus.

Here at Hope, we express this in our newly minted mission statement:

"Share life and hope in our Savior Jesus."

This applies to everything we do in our Hope family, from Sunday morning services and classes to various weekday activities.

Our mission of sharing life and hope in our Savior Jesus also motivates and drives our coming renovations (renewing) of the basement space. Kantor Janssen has also written on this under the theme "Looking Backward and Looking Forward" (see p. 4).

Hope has a long history of renovating (renewing) for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus. Kantor rightly mentions our recent organ and sanctuary renovations a few years ago. Another instance happened in 1939. That was when our forebears in the faith planned to add what is now the second story of our building (behind the altar

area and above the church office and music room).

Paperwork from 1939 admits that "the facilities of our building are inadequate as far as the Sunday-School, Day School and various societies and organizations are concerned." It mentions the "need of room for meeting places." It also states the Gospel-centered purpose: "to properly carry on the work of our church and extend the Lord's Kingdom."

Before construction, the cost for the 1939 planned renovations was estimated to be \$14,500. That was a lot of money in 1939—equivalent to about \$320,000 in today's dollars! (I'm sure that materials, labor costs, and red tape costs were much less back then too.) Led by God's grace and motivated to carry on the work of the church, God's people made it happen. The motion from 1939 said, "...which amount is to be underwritten and subscribed by members of Hope Lutheran Church over and above their regular contributions and the amounts subscribed to be paid by them within a period of two years."

In a sense, there is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9) when God's people want to spread the renewing Gospel of Jesus. That's a good thing! God's renewed people eagerly want to spread His new life and welcome others into it.

This month we observe our 107th anniversary as a congregation. Our Lord Jesus has been gracious to dwell among us all those years and deliver His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. When we celebrated our 100th anniversary in 2016, we praised and thanked our Lord for His faithfulness *and* we set our gaze forward to the next century. Jesus is "Our Hope for Years to Come." We have benefitted from those who went before us, renewing for life and hope. Now we are privileged to continue the renewing.

✠ Pastor Randy Asburry

email: rasburry@hopelutheranstl.org

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

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl

Notes from the Kantor

Looking Back and Looking Forward

In the fall of 2016, we began the process of planning for renovations to our sanctuary. Just three years later we dedicated a renovated sanctuary, complete with new art and lighting, and we dedicated a new pipe organ. We were blessed to be able to use funds that had been gifted to our congregation to pay for those much-appreciated improvements to our worship space. In the next several weeks and months we will begin a capital campaign to fund renovations to other parts of our historic building. There will be plenty of things that will need to be repaired or replaced that the average person will never see. There will be new rooms created that weren't there before. The spaces may look different to what we've become accustomed to. There will be compromises made between two seemingly different points of view on how things should be done. There may be stressful feelings as we move forward together through this process. We know some things will have to be done (both planned and unplanned) and other cosmetic decisions may not go the way we want them. We look forward to providing a more comfortable, inviting, and hospitable venue to hold meetings, Bible class, Sunday school, receptions, and whatever other things God already has in store for us here at Hope that we don't even know about yet. I pray that you will be prayerful and thoughtful throughout the process.

Our 100th anniversary theme was "Our Hope for Years to Come" from the hymn *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*. I encourage you to pray the second stanza of that hymn:

*Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure. LSB 633:2*

Those who dwell with Christ are secure. We may not know what the future holds, but we can be certain Christ is "Our Hope for Years to Come". Christ continues to bless our presence in our neighborhood at the corner of Neosho and Brannon, just as He has for the past 107 years.

Music in a Sacred Space – Hosts Needed!

On Friday, October 20 we host the first event for our annual music series, *Music in a Sacred Space*.

Our first event is a hymn festival unlike you've ever experienced. The middle school musicians (singers, bell ringers, and instrumentalists) from St. John Lutheran School in Seward, Nebraska, will lead us in an evening of hymn singing and meditation. Under the direction of Kantor Paul Soulek, the young musicians present annual hymn festivals under the theme, "Sing Boldly." The middle schoolers are traveling for the weekend, presenting their hymn festival several times at different churches, and enjoying some Christian fellowship along the way.

In order to keep their costs down they ask that hosting congregations provide them with two things. First, a meal. The *Music in a Sacred Space* committee will feed them well before their evening performance. Second, housing in host homes. This is where you can help. The students will be in groups of 3 students and 1 adult.

It is simple to host touring students in your home after a concert. First, all they need is a place to sleep for a few hours. Couches, air mattresses, a guest bedroom...all are fantastic options. They can share a bed if it's big enough. Same for the adult chaperones. They know what they've signed up for! Second, a little hospitality. Maybe some post-hymn festival snacks when you get home or a stop at Ted Drewes on the way back to your house. Finally, breakfast. Breakfast can be as simple, or complex, as you'd like. Personally, I've experienced everything from cereal and milk to full pancakes, eggs, and sausage. This might be a great time to pull out that Easter Egg Casserole recipe (hint...it does work even if it's not Easter). Finally, you'll return them to an agreed upon location on the morning of October 21. ***We will need approximately 12-15 host homes. If you're interested, please contact Kantor Janssen!***

*Together In Christ,
Kantor Janssen
mjanssen@hopelutheranl.org*

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:9-10)

It's in the Way that You Use It

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or

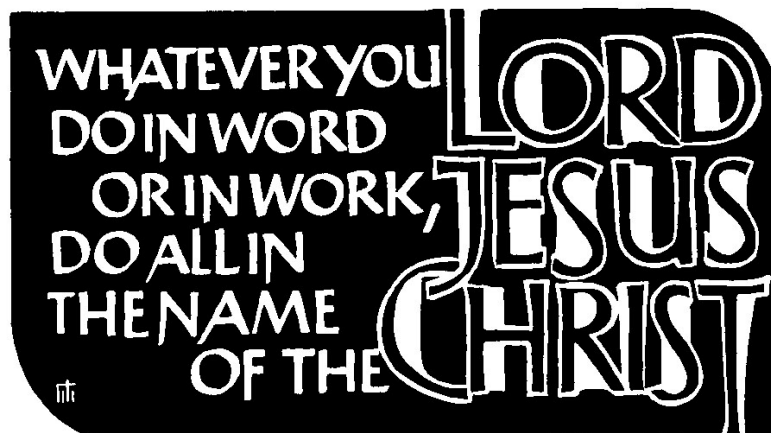
deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry
lcms.org/stewardship



In the Sunday **Divine Service** God Himself comes in our midst to serve us through His Word and Sacrament. The *Augsburg Confession* makes this simple and profound statement about our worship: *"All ceremonies should serve the purpose of teaching the people what they need to know about Christ"* (AC, 24:3). That's indeed what our liturgy does every Sunday. Here's what we will hear and learn about Christ in the month of October:

Date	Day in Church Year	Gospel Reading	Gospel Focus (Theme of the Day)
October 1	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	Luke 10:23-37	The Good Samaritan – Jesus Christ is the true "Good Samaritan" who rescues us and heals us from our sin. In the same way, we Christians are called to "be neighbor" to people around us—that is, to be "little Christs" to them.
October 8	Anniversary of a Congregation	Luke 19:1-10	Congregation Anniversary – God promises to dwell with His people by means of His holy Word and Sacraments. Just as Jesus entered the home of Zacchaeus and thus brought salvation to him and other sinners around him, so also has our Lord entered our house of worship and continually brings salvation to us. We thank our gracious Savior, along with His Father and the Holy Spirit, for dwelling among us here at Hope for 98 years.
October 15	Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity	Matthew 9:1-8	The Healing of the Paralytic – Jesus heals body and soul. This healing is the forgiveness of sins. Where the soul is healed in forgiveness, the body benefits too. Jesus forgives sins on earth.
October 22	20th Sunday after Trinity	Matthew 22:1-14	The Great Supper – God invites all people to His great supper at the end of time. Some reject Him and His invitation; others gladly receive His gracious invitation. Those who enjoy the supper are changed – by God's gifts.
October 29	Festival of the Reformation (observed)	Matthew 11:12-19	The Everlasting Gospel – The Church always needs to be reformed. That reforming comes only through the Word of God. God's people may suffer scorn and persecution, but Jesus sustains and upholds His Church by the hearing of His Word.

Y4Life

Y4Life is part of Lutherans For Life. "Y4Life seeks to equip high school and college-aged youth to be Gospel-motivated voices 4 Life. Through service, celebration, worship, and education, youth are encouraged to engage in life-affirming activities and become Leaders

4Life in their schools, communities, nation, and world!"

If you know a student or teacher who would like to start a student life ministry at their high school or college campus, direct them to Lutherans For Life. "Y4Life Teams (high school and college) receive ongoing mentorship,

resources, and other support for students and faculty who are working to share the 4Life message with their campuses and communities." Resources like lessons are available for the high school classroom to address life issues that are related to various subjects like English, biology, and theology. These can help the students connect their faith to their life. There is life ministry training for future church workers, so they can learn the importance of life ministry and give them ways to address life issues while they are still students and in their careers. For more information about Y4Life, contact <https://y4life.org/> or <https://lutheransforlife.org/>. information and registration details can be found at - <https://lutheransforlife.org/conference/>

THE LUTHERAN PRAYER BREAKFAST

Featuring Rev. Tim Carter, author of
The Executioner's Redemption

Wednesday November 8, 2023

Registration: 7:00 a.m.

Breakfast and Program: 8-9:30 a.m.

Sunset Event Space

10709 Watson Road

\$25/person. \$250/table of 10.

Full breakfast including coffee and juice.

Registration deadline: Oct. 30, 2023

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT:

Concordiasem.regfox.com/lutheran-prayer-breakfast. For more information

contact Kim Braddy: 314-505-7362 or

braddyk@csl.edu.



FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR

Open upcoming dates for flowers for the altar are Sundays, October 22 and 29; and November 5, 12, 19 and 26. 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.

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 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

Join us for a Backyard English Country Dance 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.

Phone: 314-352-0014

October 2023

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <u>Trinity 17</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/ Sunday School 11:30 Schola rehearsal	2	3	4 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal	5 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	6	7 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
8 <u>Anniversary of a Congregation</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Campaign Launch/Sunday School	9 7:00 Church Council	10	11 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal	12 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	13 5:00 Egger-Eising Wedding Rehearsal	14 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 3:00 Egger-Eising Wedding
15 <u>Trinity 19</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Campaign Forum/ Sunday School 11:30 Schola rehearsal	16 7:00 Campaign Forum	17	18 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal 7:00 Campaign Team (via Zoom)	19 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	20	21 <i>Pastor's day off</i> TBD Campaign Prayer Service
22 <u>Trinity 20</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/Sunday School 11:30 Schola rehearsal	23	24	25 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal	26 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	27	28 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
29 <u>Reformation Day</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/Sunday School 11:30 Voters Assembly	30	31	Elder: 1 – Scot Kinnaman 8 – Jim Frost 15 – Scot Kinnaman 22 – Mark Maichel 29 – Jim Frost	Altar Guild: 1 Spyers/Truebe 8 Asburry/Bergdolt 15 Brown/Patton 22 Keller/Janssen 29 Temme/Mussman		