



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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www.hopelutheranstl.org



✠ THE HOPE LUTHERAN ✠

Vol. 100, No. 9

Share life and hope in our Savior Jesus.

November 2023

"For All the Saints"

Each year, we relish the opportunity to remember and thank God for "all the company of heaven," for all our brothers and sisters in Christ who have gone before us to await the resurrection of the body on the Last Day. Officially, All Saints' Day is November 1, but we observe it each year on the first Sunday in November. This celebration "marks a culmination of the growth from Pentecost and Holy Trinity, a harvest of souls, as it were, in the promise of the resurrection."¹

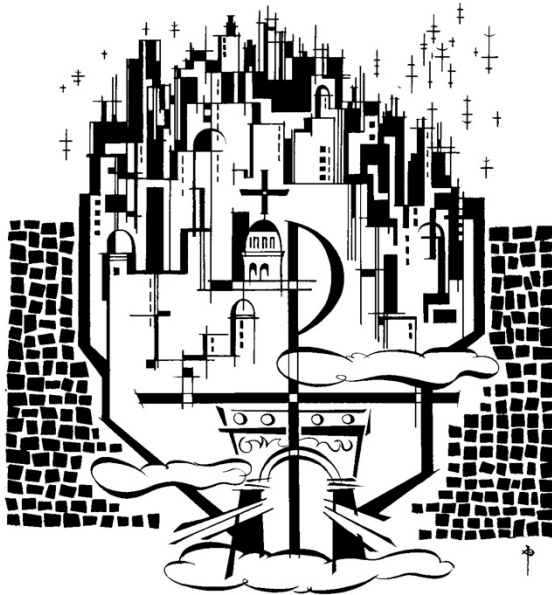
Regarding the saints, the Augsburg Confession, Article XXI, says, "Our churches teach that the history of saints may be set before us so that we may follow the example of their faith and good works, according to our calling." It also clarifies that "the Scriptures do not teach that we are to call upon the saints or to ask the saints for help."²

The Apology of the Augsburg Confession (Art. XXI) then outlines three ways in which we may honor the saints:

1. Thanking God for showing His mercy through them,

2. Strengthening our faith by their example,
3. Imitating their faith and other virtues.³

It is with this guidance in mind and heart that we celebrate All Saints' Day.



The Hymn of the Day for this festival is "For All the Saints" (LSB 677). This noble, beloved hymn brings much comfort and joy, especially as we remember loved ones and Christian brothers and sisters who have died in the faith. This comfort and joy come from the message of triumph and hope we have in Christ Jesus, even as we "feebly struggle" this side of eternity. As the saying goes, this hymn boldly proclaims: "We know how the story ends."

Stanzas 1-2: The Great Cloud of Witnesses

*For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

¹ Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Services, 262.

² Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, 44.

³ See Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, 292.

Saints are all people saved by God's grace in Christ Jesus, brought to faith by the Holy Spirit working through the Word, washed clean in Baptism, and nourished by the Lord's Supper. They trust Christ's forgiveness and confess Him in all of life. We do not invoke, or pray to, the saints, but we do honor their memory. See Hebrews 11 for a Scriptural example of honoring our fellow saints.

Though we here sing of the saints now at rest, we truly are singing to our Lord Jesus Himself. The focus of these stanzas and the whole hymn is on Christ and His work.

Stanzas 3-6: Saints (Believers) on Earth

*Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Stanza 2 introduced the military imagery that more fully unfolds in stanzas 3-6. This side of eternal life with our Savior, we earthly saints are soldiers. We continue in the skirmishes of the spiritual warfare begun in the Garden of Eden. While we do struggle with visible, outward manifestations of evil—illness, hatred, corruption, wars, etc.—“we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

Our God, though, provides us with the proper armor and weaponry for living in, enduring, and surviving this warfare. See Ephesians 6:10-18. He also knits us together in “the holy Christian church, the communion of saints” (Apostles' Creed). This “blest communion” consists of saints feebly struggling on earth as well as those already shining in glory and awaiting the resurrection.

As we rely on the strength of Jesus Himself and rest in His cross-won victory over sin, death, and the devil, our feeble hearts are made brave. We look forward to seeing and realizing the calm and peace of the new paradise that Jesus has achieved and promised.

Stanzas 7-8: The Second Coming of Christ

*But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on His way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

These final two stanzas proclaim the return of Christ and paint the beautiful picture of the unnumbered multitude of believers who will one day stream into paradise. This glimpse into our promised future strengthens our faith and gives us joy.

Until that glorious day, though, we still participate in crying out with a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Revelation 7:10). In fact, at every Divine Service, we partake in “nothing less than the foretaste of the coming feast with Christ, as heaven touches earth in the Holy Supper.”⁴

The Lord grant us a blessed and joyous All Saints' Day.

✂ Pastor Randy Asburry

email: rasburry@hopelutheranstl.org

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

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl

⁴ Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns, Volume I, 901.

S A N C T U S



W I N D S

A Sacred Band

L I F E E T E R N A L

Sunday, November 5

4:00 PM

Peace Lutheran Church

737 Barracksvue Rd.

St. Louis, MO

Sanctus Winds is a community band performing sacred repertoire and traditional band literature with the purpose of offering praise to the Triune God and for the edification of the performer and audience.

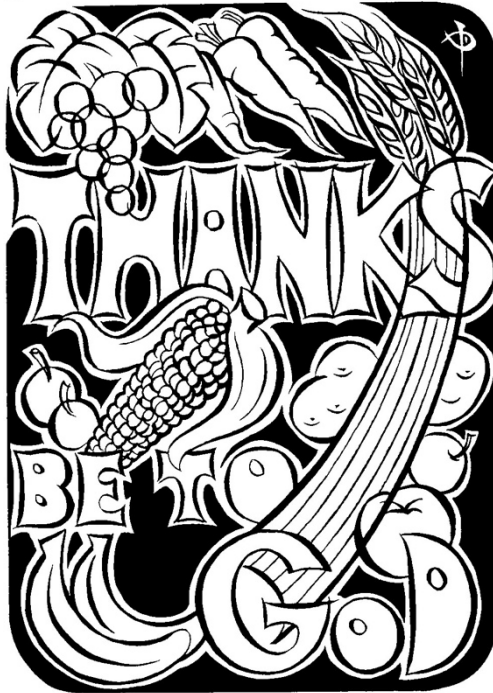
Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor

and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.



Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And

may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all – even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry
lcms.org/stewardship



Organ Concert

at
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Sunday, November 12, 2023
4:00 p.m.
Featuring
Mr. Matthew Gerhardt



The concert will feature sacred and classical organ works by Bach, Franck and Vierne on our 23 rank Martin Ott organ, as well as hymn singing and narratives by the artist.

Matthew Gerhardt serves as Kantor (music director) at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Des Peres, Missouri, where he oversees a robust music ministry. A graduate of Concordia University Wisconsin and the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Matt studied organ with John Behnke, Stefan Kagl, and Janette Fishell, and improvisation with Robert Nicholls, Bruce Neswick, and Stefan Kagl. Matt was also a guest student at the Hochschule für Kirchenmusik, where he received the top score of 1,0 (excellent) on the MA-level organ performance exam.



Lord of Life Lutheran Church
15750 Baxter Road
Chesterfield, Missouri
636-532-0400
www.LordofLifeLCMS.org/
Soli deo gloria

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 November:

Date	Day in Church Year	Gospel Reading	Gospel Focus (Theme of the Day)
November 5	All Saints’ Day	Matthew 5:1-12	End Time Christian Hope: Christ’s blessing for saints in heaven & on earth. Saints on earth suffer all sorts of shame, dishonor and persecution. But that does not deter us, because Jesus promises a greater gift in heaven, now enjoyed by saints who have gone before us.
November 12	23rd Sunday after Trinity	Matthew 22:15-22	Claims of the State: The state has a certain claim on you; it serves you; give back to the state what belongs to it. But above all, give back to God what belongs to God! You are to give your whole self as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, for God alone has the total claim on all of you.
November 19	24th Sunday after Trinity	Matthew 9:18-26	Death’s Conqueror: Two people are helped through faith. This faith is evoked by Christ, the Lord of life. When He heals, He recalls the life that has flown away. If this happens already in the realm of earthly life, how much greater the power of the risen Savior will be in the realm of death. “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life.”
November 26	Last Sunday of the Church Year	Matthew 25:1-13	End Time Christian Hope: prepared and waiting for Christ’s return. Only those who are prepared by God’s Word and Sacraments will enter the heavenly wedding feast with Bridegroom Jesus. Thus we live prepared and focused on Christ.

ORGAN CONCERT

Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Chesterfield will present an **Organ Concert on Sunday, November 12th at 4:00 P.M.**, featuring Mr. Matthew Gerhardt. This concert will feature sacred and classical organ works by Bach, Franck, and Vierne on our 23 rank Martin Ott organ, as well as hymn singing and narratives by the artist. A reception will follow. No tickets or reservations are needed, but a freewill offering will be received. Lord of Life Lutheran Church is located at 15750 Baxter Road in Chesterfield. For more information, visit: www.lordoflifelcms.org.

BOAR’S HEAD CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

The 35th Boar’s Head Festival, will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Charles, December 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th. There will be a 7:30 performance each evening with afternoon performances at 4:00 pm both Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets will be available on a first come, first served basis starting at 8:00 am on Wednesday, November 1 by calling the church office at 636-946-2656. There is no charge for the tickets, but there is a limit of 5 per person.

Phone: 314-352-0014

November 2023

www.hopelutheranstl.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Elder: 5 – Scot Kinnaman 12 – Kevin Robson 19 – Scot Kinnaman 26 – Mark Maichel	Altar Guild: 5 Spyers/Truebe 12 Asbury/Bergdolt 19 Brown/Patton 26 Keller/Janssen		1 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal 6-8 pm Cottage mtg	2 6:00 ThriVe Parent University 6-8 pm Cottage mtg	3 6-8 pm Cottage mtg	4 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 9:30-11:30 am Cottage mtg 10-noon SGM Planning Workshop 6-8 pm Cottage mtg
5 All Saints' Day 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/ Sunday School 11:30 Schola rehearsal 4:00 Sanctus Winds Concert @ Peace	6	7 5:30 Leadership Commitment Dinner @ Trattoria Toscana	8 NO Kantorei Rehearsal	9 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	10	11 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 6-8p Cottage mtg
12 Trinity 23 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/ Sunday School with Prayer Walk 11:30 Schola rehearsal	13	14	15 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal	16 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	17	18 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
19 Trinity 24 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/Sunday School 11:30 Commitment Celebration	20 7:00 Board of Elders	21	22 NO Kantorei Rehearsal	23 Thanksgiving 9:30 Matins Church office closed	24 Church office closed	25 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
26 Last Sunday of the Church Year 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/Sunday School 11:30 Schola rehearsal	27	28	29 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal	30		