



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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WEEKLY NEWS ✠ November 19, 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 ✠

THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD IS OUR SALVATION FROM SIN, DEATH, AND THE DARKNESS

A shroud of darkness engulfs us. Sin, death, and disease threaten to sever us from life's fullest measure. Without new life in Christ Jesus, there would be no light to dissipate, dispel, or curb grief and sadness. But Jesus has qualified us *"to share in the inheritance of the saints of light"* delivering us from the dark domain (Col. 1:9-14). *"I have put my words in your mouth and covered you in the shadow of my hand,...You are my people"* (Is. 51:9-16). The presence of Christ, in word, wine, bread, and water, confronts our sinful nature with forgiveness. In the sacraments, God claims us to be His very own children, creating, and sustaining our faith. So in Christ, we humbly receive the words, *"your faith has made you well"* (Matt. 9:18-26). On the last day God will surely awaken us also from slumber in resurrection glory.

✠ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ✠

SONGS OF TRUST

Today's hymnody and Psalmody encourage the congregation to trust in the Lord. Our Hymn of the Day, *In the Very Midst of Life* (LSB 755) isn't an overly well-known hymn tune and only shows up on the 24th Sunday after Trinity. It is, however, a staple of the Reformation era hymnody. We find comfort in Martin Luther's text reminding us that even in the midst of death, disaster, and complete despair we find peace in the "Holy and Mighty God." These themes are echoed in our closing hymn, *Entrust Your Days and Burdens* (LSB 754), where we sing encouragement to give our daily burdens over to God.

✠ 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 126 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- *PONDER* today's Hymn of the Day, "In the Very Midst of Life"

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 ✠

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR (November 26, 2023)

- Old Testament: **Isaiah 65:17-25** — Isaiah proclaims and pictures the "new heavens and new earth."
Psalm: **Psalm 149** — "Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!"
Epistle: **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** — The Lord will come like a thief in the night; therefore, we soberly watch for His return to save us.
Holy Gospel: **Matthew 25:1-13** — The kingdom is like ten virgins—five were unprepared for the Bridegroom and five were prepared.



✠ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✠

OPEN ALTAR VASES for Sunday, November 19, 26 and December 3, 10, and 17. 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.

OUR “RENEWING FOR LIFE AND HOPE” CAMPAIGN COMMITMENT CELEBRATION will be TODAY beginning about 11:45 a.m. Everyone who calls Hope Lutheran Church their church home—young and old—is invited! We will celebrate the progress already made in bringing our vision for the basement renovation to a reality. Enjoy sub sandwiches for lunch, games for the kids, and fellowship time with our Hope family.

CHRISTMAS TREES LOOKING FOR GOOD HOMES - If you, or someone you know, are looking for a 9’ Christmas tree, not pre-lit, gently used, Hope Church has 2 trees to give away to good homes. The Altar Guild has purchased a new tree for the sanctuary this year, so the two trees we have used in the past are available. Please call Rachel, 314-369-6661, or Carol, 314-691-3619, to make arrangements for picking them up.

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE FOR ALL AGES on Friday, December 1st at 7pm in the Hope basement. 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. RSVP and Questions: Contact Nicholas Weber, n@nicholasedwinweber.com

STAY AWAKE! A SERVICE OF SACRED MUSIC FOR THE END OF THE CHURCH YEAR! On Tuesday, November 28 from 7-8pm you are invited to the Chapel of St. Timothy & St. Titus, 801 Seminary Place on the Seminary campus. A Choral Service of Evening Prayer, preparing for Advent and Christmas and featuring Laudamus, the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale and the Psallite choir from Village Lutheran Church in Ladue, Mo. Local artist, April Parviz, will have some of her art on display in The Chapel of St. Timothy & St. Titus narthex and Koburg Hall following the service, where you also can meet the artist.

LCMS CONGREGATIONS are invited to submit nominations for President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN, through December. Hope members may submit names to Kevin Robson, chairman of the Board of Elders (kevindrobson@gmail.com), through TOMORROW. The Board of Elders, with the Church Council, will present a list of nominees at a special Voters Assembly meeting scheduled for Sunday, December 10, to be held in the sanctuary immediately following the service. Information on nominees will be shared with the congregation on Sunday, December 3. For more information on the process and required qualifications visit the Presidential Search link at ctsfw.edu.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, November 19: **Philippians 3:19 - “Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.”** There is danger in setting our minds on earthly things, serving mammon and caring more for our bodily comfort than our spiritual well-being. God does not tell us to be faithful and generous in our stewardship of the things of this earth to ruin our fun. Rather, He tells us to give generously to teach us how to make sure the things of this world do not lay hold of our hearts.

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✠ October					
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK			FINANCIAL		
Sunday: 96			October		Year To Date through October
			<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>Budgeted</u>
Income:			\$33,073	\$29,264	Income: \$329,580 \$292,663
Expense:			\$25,165	\$28,258	Expense: \$290,711 \$268,050
THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✠ November 19, 2023					
SCHEDULE	SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS		WEEK’S CALENDAR		
9:00 –DIVINE SERVICE Live stream at www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl	2 nd Floor:		MONDAY		
10:15 – Coffee Hour	Early Childhood Sunday School		TUESDAY		
10:30 – Bible Study/Sunday School	Basement:		WEDNESDAY		
11:45 – Campaign Commitment Celebration	Primary – Junior High Sunday School		THURSDAY		
	Basement Auditorium:		Thanksgiving Day-Church office Closed 9:30 am Thanksgiving Matins		
	Luther’s Large Catechism		FRIDAY		
	Pastor Asburry		Church office Closed		
			SATURDAY		