



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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WEEKLY NEWS ❖ November 26, 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 ❖

BY FAITH WE ARE PREPARED FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

"The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:1-11). The arrival of the bridegroom will be sudden and unexpected. Therefore you are to be watchful and ready like the five wise virgins. "For you know neither the day nor the hour" when the Son of Man is to return. (Matt. 25:1-13). The lamps are the Word of Christ. The oil in the lamps is the Holy Spirit, who works through the Word to create and sustain the flame of faith in Christ. The foolish are those who do not give proper attention to the working of the Holy Spirit in baptism, preaching, and the supper, and so their faith does not endure. The wise, however, are those who diligently attend to these gifts of the Spirit, and who therefore have an abundance of oil. The flame of faith endures to the end. By God's grace they are received into the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth created by the Lord for the joy of His people (Is. 65:17-25).

❖ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ❖

JOY TO THE WORLD...AT THE END TIMES

On the Last Sunday of the Church Year we hear the parable of the Ten Virgins and sing the "King of Chorales" in the hymn *Wake, Awake for Night is Flying* (LSB 516), the Swedish hymn *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* (LSB 515), and *The Day is Surely Drawing Near* (LSB 508). These all clearly relate to the Second Coming of Christ, not the first. But, did you know...*Joy to the World* (LSB 387) has more in common with the Second Coming themes than Christmas Day? The first verse can be seen as related to Christmas, but verses two through four are more closely related to the Second Advent of Jesus. So, we sing a "Christmas" hymn to close our worship today while pondering a deeper meaning!

❖ 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 149 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- **PONDER** today's Hymn of the Day, "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" (LSB 516)

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 ❖

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT - "To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul" (December 3, 2023)

Old Testament: **Jeremiah 23:5-8**—God promises to send a King known as "The Lord Our Righteousness."

Psalm: **Psalm 24**—"The earth is the LORD's, and all it's fullness." "The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory."

Epistle: **Romans 13:8-14**—Our salvation is nearer now. Therefore, let us live life soberly and watchfully.

Holy Gospel: **Matthew 21:1-9**—Our King comes humble and riding on a donkey. He comes to save us by dying on a cross!



✧ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✧

OPEN ALTAR VASES for Sunday, 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.

POINSETTIA PLANTS will be placed in the altar area during the Christmas season. If you wish to place a plant in honor or memory of someone, please pick up an envelope from the narthex or call Carol, 314-691-3619, by December 17. Poinsettias are \$8.00 each and are yours to take home anytime during the Christmas season.

THANK YOU to everyone who has made commitments and contributions to Hope’s “Renewing for Life and Hope” ministry enhancement campaign! Currently, pledges amount to \$318,000. Combined with the \$202,000 already in the Basement Fund we now have about \$520,000 for the basement renovation project – about 75% of the \$700,000 goal. Commitments can still be made! First Gifts Sunday will be December 3. Please be sure to attend. Special envelopes for contributions by check are available in the narthex and church office and can be mailed to you upon request. Please add “Renewing for Life and Hope” in the memo line for proper recording of your contributions. Online options are available through the church website www.hopelutheranstl.org/giving and at <https://www.vancopayments.com>. Sign into the Vanco app and search for “Hope Ev. Lutheran Church”. Use the drop-down list to access Renewing For Life And Hope.

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 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. 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 26: **Matthew 25:4 - “But the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.”** Why did they take flasks of oil with them? Because they listened to the Bridegroom’s words and believed what He told them. Our actions always start with and flow from our beliefs. What do your actions in the realm of financial stewardship say about what you believe?

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✧ October					
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Sunday: 100		FINANCIAL			
		October		Year To Date through October	
		Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted
		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 26, 2023					
SCHEDULE	SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS		WEEK’S CALENDAR		
9:00 –DIVINE SERVICE Live stream at www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl 10:15 – Coffee Hour 10:30 – Bible Study/Sunday School 11:30 – Schola Rehearsal	2 nd Floor:		MONDAY		
	Early Childhood Sunday School		TUESDAY		
	Basement:		WEDNESDAY 5:00 Kantorei rehearsal		
	Primary – Junior High Sunday School		THURSDAY		
		Basement Auditorium:	FRIDAY		
		Luther’s Large Catechism	SATURDAY		
		Pastor Asburry			