



# Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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## WEEKLY NEWS ❖ December 10, 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 LORD COMES ON THE LAST DAY

The day on which our Lord returns will be a *"great and awesome day"* (Mal. 4:5). For He will come in a cloud with great power and glory. To the wicked and the proud, it will be a Day of judgment that will *"set them ablaze"* (Mal. 4:1). The signs preceding this Day will bring them fear and fainting. But to those who believe, who fear the name of the Lord, this Day is one to look forward to and rejoice in: *"...straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near"* (Luke 21:28). Christ our Redeemer is coming; the Sun of Righteousness will bring healing in His wings. Let us, then, give attention to the words of the Lord, which do not pass away. Let us *"through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures"* (Rom. 15:4) be strengthened in our hope by the Holy Spirit and watch diligently for Jesus' coming. Then, by God's grace, we shall escape all these things that will come to pass and stand before the Son of Man.

### ❖ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ❖

#### LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING (LSB 336)

Charles Wesley saw that, according to Luther, music teaches the faith and imprints it strongly upon the heart. So he did in this hymn. The tune does what the text declares. As the music descends so the text confesses *"...with clouds descending."* As the congregation and musicians swell so we sing *"Swell the triumph of His train, Alleluia...."* The hymn primarily pictures through song the words of Revelation 1:7: *"Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen."* Some slight editing has taken place from Wesley's original which shows theological difference between the Methodists and Lutherans, *"once for favored sinners slain,"* now reads *"Once for every sinner slain."* (from logia.org)

### ❖ 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 50 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- *PONDER* today's Hymn of the Day, LSB 336, *"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"*

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 ❖

#### THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT - *"Rejoice!"* (December 17, 2023)

Old Testament: **Isaiah 40:1-11** — Prepare the way of the Lord...comfort my people.

Psalm: **Psalm 85** — "Lord, you have been favorable to Your land...You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people."

Epistle: **1 Corinthians 4:1-5** — He who judges is the Lord.

Holy Gospel: **Matthew 11:2-11** — John's question to Jesus from prison.



✠ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✠

JOIN US FOR THE SPECIAL VOTERS ASSEMBLY RIGHT HERE IN THE SANCTUARY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TODAY’S SERVICE TO MAKE OUR SELECTION FROM NOMINEE NAMES submitted for President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN.

NEW ADVENT BANNERS AND WHAT THEY MEAN: Our new blue banners point to Jesus as the coming King. The Root of Jesse banner, with a live shoot arising from the root, comes from Isaiah 11:10, “In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples – of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.” Jesus descended from the line of Jesse and his son, David. In the second banner the door is partially open to reveal the Chi Rho (XP) symbol with a crown for the coming King. Jesus said, “I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture” (John 10:9). The Chi Rho symbol is taken from the first two letters of the Greek word “Christos” – ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ.

LAST CHANCE NEXT SUNDAY TO PURCHASE POINSETTIA PLANTS for 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.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS OF HOPE! You may still complete and return your 3-year commitment for Hope’s “Renewing for Life and Hope” campaign. So far, we have received commitments from about 50% of our regular givers, achieving about 75% of our \$700,000 goal for the basement renovation. Your commitments are important! Please help us meet this goal! The Building Committee will base their recommendations to a January Special Voters Assembly meeting on the total committed. If you haven’t given your commitment, please welcome a letter and a phone call from the campaign team. Special envelopes for contributions by check are available in the narthex and church office and can be mailed to you upon request. Please note “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](http://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.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, December 10: **Romans 15:4 - “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction.”** God’s Word was given to us to bless us. The Bible warns us of our sin and points us to Christ for our salvation. The Bible also instructs us how to live out our Christian lives (this is the “third use of the Law”). As Christians, we should welcome this instruction in humble faith. We know that Christ has saved us; now, we want to know how to live lives of faith that are pleasing to Him.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE SOURCE FOR NEWS, INFORMATION & TRUTH... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: Christian Decision Making & the End of Life; Biblical Inerrancy; Has Evolution Disproved the Creation Account; Gender Fluidity; Pre-Marital Sex and more. You can tune in live weekdays from 3-5 p.m. on KFUE, 850 AM in St. Louis.

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✠ November 19 - December 2		
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Sunday: 70	FINANCIAL	
	November 19- December 2	
	Actual	Budgeted
	Income: \$12,839	\$13,595
	Year To Date through October	
	Actual	Budgeted
	Income: \$329,580	\$292,663
	Expense: \$290,711	\$268,050
THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✠ December 10, 2023		
SCHEDULE	SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS	WEEK’S CALENDAR
9:00 -DIVINE SERVICE Live stream at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl">www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor: Early Childhood Sunday School	MONDAY 7:00 Board of Finance
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 5:00 Kantorei rehearsal 7:00 Advent Evening Prayer
11:30 - Schola Rehearsal		THURSDAY
		FRIDAY
		SATURDAY Pastor’s day off