



# Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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[www.hopelutheranstl.org](http://www.hopelutheranstl.org)



## WEEKLY NEWS ❖ December 17, 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 ❖

#### JOHN THE BAPTIZER PREPARES THE WAY FOR THE LORD

The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord..." (Isa. 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah's coming through repentance, for "all flesh is grass" (Isa. 40:6). Now He asks from prison, "Are you the one who is to come...?" (Matt. 11:2). Jesus' works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord's hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The "stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:1) still deliver Christ's overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God's people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.

### ❖ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ❖

#### ALL YOU WORKS OF GOD, BLESS THE LORD (LSB 930)

What an odd hymn to sing on the Third Sunday of Advent! Today happens to also be the commemoration of "Daniel the Prophet and Three Young Men." Steven Starke paraphrases their song, commonly titled *Benedicite Opera*, in this juxtaposition with an upbeat Jamaican tune. The text is commonly heard at Hope as the final canticle of the Easter Vigil service and is contained in the Apocrypha. Though not found in the original Hebrew of Daniel chapter 2, Dr. Martin Luther writes, "...to keep them [various prayers and writings] from perishing, we have put them here [the Apocrypha] in a kind of special little spice garden or flower bed since much that is good, especially the hymn of praise, *Benedicite [Opera]*, is to be found in them." Enjoy a spicy little hymn of praise!

### ❖ 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 85 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- *PONDER* today's Hymn of the Day, LSB 345, "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

*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 ❖

#### FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT - "Shower, O heavens!" (December 24, 2023)

Old Testament: **Deuteronomy 18:15-19** – A Prophet like Moses.

Psalm: **Psalm 111** – "He sent redemption to his people; Holy and awesome is his name!"

Epistle: **Philippians 4:4-7** – Rejoice in the Lord always.

Holy Gospel: **John 1:19-28** – John the Baptizer is the voice crying in the wilderness.



✂ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✂

**ORDER TODAY! LAST CHANCE 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, TODAY. Poinsettias are \$8.00 each and are yours to take home anytime during the Christmas season.

**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**.

**THE ORCHESTRA OF PEACE AND BELLS OF PEACE** under the direction of Burnell Hackman invite you and your family and friends to **Christmas at Peace**, TODAY at 3:00 pm. The doors will open at 2:15 pm. The concert will feature sacred Christmas music which will prepare you for the coming of our Lord and Savior. Our special guest will be internationally renowned soprano Christine Brewer. **PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH** 737 BARRACKSVIEW RD, SAINT LOUIS, MO 63125-5409

**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 17: 1 Corinthians 4:2 – “Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.”** A steward manages the property of the owner for the owner’s purposes. We are stewards of all that God has given us. So, we are called to use all that we are and all that we have for God’s purposes. How do we know what His purposes are? Consider your vocations, your callings from God, in the home, in the church and in society: What are the roles God has called you to play? And how should you be using the gifts He has given you to fulfill those roles?

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✂ November						
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Sunday: 89	FINANCIAL					
	November		Year To Date through November			
		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
	Income:	\$25,407	\$29,265	Income:	\$310,406	\$321,928
	Expense:	\$30,025	\$25,729	Expense:	\$282,252	\$293,779
THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✂ December 17, 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:		MONDAY			
10:15 – Coffee Hour	Early Childhood Sunday School		TUESDAY			
10:30 – Bible Study/Sunday School	Basement:		WEDNESDAY			
11:30 – Schola Rehearsal	Primary – Junior High Sunday School		NO Kantorei rehearsal 7:00 Advent Evening Prayer with Sunday School Program			
	Basement Auditorium:		THURSDAY			
	Luther’s Large Catechism		FRIDAY			
	Pastor Asburry		SATURDAY			
			Pastor’s day off			