



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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WEEKLY NEWS ✠ January 7, 2024

✠ 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 ✠

IN HIS BAPTISM, JESUS TAKES HIS PLACE WITH SINNERS

Our Lord Jesus is baptized "to fulfill all righteousness" (Matt. 3:13-17). He partakes of a baptism for sinners in order that He might be our substitute and bear the judgment we deserve. In the water, Jesus trades places with us. Our sin becomes His sin. His righteousness becomes our righteousness. Our glory, therefore, is in "Christ Jesus, who became to us...righteousness and sanctification and redemption" (1 Cor. 1:26-31). Jesus is the "chosen" One sent from the Father to release us from the prison house of sin and death (Is. 42:1-7). Baptized into Christ, we also become the chosen ones, beloved of the Father. We cross the Jordan with Jesus (Joshua 3) through death into the promised land of new life with God.

✠ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ✠

In today's Gospel we once again see John the Baptist. This time he is baptizing Jesus. We hear from heaven, "He is my Son. With Him I am well pleased." Many of today's hymns focus on this event. The Hymn of the Day is Martin Luther's *To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord* (LSB 406). This hymn is part of Luther's series of hymns on the Catechism. The tune CHRIST, UNSER HERR was not originally written for this hymn text. However, it became associated with it in 1543 and the tune and text have been bonded ever since. The year 1524 was a big year for Lutheran hymnals with the publication of *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyen* in Wittenberg, Germany. This collection of 32 hymns and spiritual songs was collected by Johann Walter in collaboration with Martin Luther. This year we celebrate its 500th anniversary, along with many of its hymns!

✠ 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 406, "To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord"

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 ✠

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY (January 14, 2024)

Jesus is our Lord of gladness and gives us a foretaste of His heavenly wedding feast.

Old Testament: **Exodus 33:12-23**—God reveals His glory to Moses by showing His "back." God must hide Himself to reveal Himself to us.

Psalms: **Psalm 67**—"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us"

Epistle: **Ephesians 5:22-33**—Christ is the bridegroom and His Church is the bride—a divine picture for all husbands and wives.

Holy Gospel: **John 2:1-11**—Jesus changes water into rich wine at a wedding banquet and reveals Himself as the Lord of gladness.



✂ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✂

VOLUNTEER CHURCH CLEANING: The Church Council will host a winter cleaning day on Saturday, January 13 from 9AM till 12 noon. The plan is to do some deep cleaning in and around the facility with special attention to the upper floors and the sanctuary. Breakfast will be provided. Please mark your calendar and look for more details in the coming weeks. If you can attend, please RSVP to Bart Day at bart.day@lcef.org

THE LUTHERAN SOUTH BANDS WILL HOST Big Band Swing on Friday, January 12 from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. The night will feature the local professional big band “The Ambassadors of Swing.” Tickets are available for \$30 each and include beer, wine, and hors d’oeuvres. Free swing dance lessons will be offered at 6:30 p.m. It is sure to be a fun evening as we raise money for the band to go on tour this spring! Get tickets at LSlancers.org/events

ORGAN VESPERS FOR THE TRANSFIGURATION on Sunday, January 21 at 3:00 pm will feature guest organist Justin Knabach and guest preacher Rev. Bob Bernhardt. Justin is organist at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in St. Louis County and Rev. Bernhardt is pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran in South City. The service will feature vibrant hymnody and organ music. A reception will follow in the church auditorium. This event is sponsored by the *Music in a Sacred Space* series.

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE FOR ALL AGES on Friday, January 19th at 7 pm in the Hope basement. No experience necessary, all dances will be taught. The dance will be called by Bill McDonald. Sign up to 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

WE HAVE RECEIVED COMMITMENTS from about 50% of our regular givers, achieving about 75% of our \$700,000 goal for the basement renovation. 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 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, January 7: Matthew 3:14 - “John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’” John is right – what Jesus is doing makes no sense! But this is the upside-down, outlandish grace of God: the innocent Jesus takes our sinner’s place. This is the greatest act of giving the world has ever known or will know: the Father gives His Son to die in the place of sinners.

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✕ December 3 - 16					
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Sunday: 55	FINANCIAL				
	December 3 - 16			Year To Date through November	
		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
	Income:	\$15,554	\$13,220	Income:	\$310,406 \$321,928
	Expense:	\$30,983	\$22,123	Expense:	\$282,252 \$293,779
THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✕ January 7, 2024					
SCHEDULE 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	SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS		WEEK’S CALENDAR		
	2 nd Floor:		MONDAY		
	Early Childhood Sunday School		TUESDAY		
	Basement:		WEDNESDAY		
	Primary – Junior High Sunday School		5:00 Kantorei rehearsal		
	Basement Auditorium:		THURSDAY		
Luther’s Large Catechism		FRIDAY			
Pastor Asburry		SATURDAY			
		Pastor’s day off			