



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

5218 Neosho St, St. Louis, MO 63109 • 314-352-0014

www.hopelutheranstl.org



WEEKLY NEWS ❖ January 14, 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 ❖

The coming of the Messianic kingdom means the restoration of creation. The sign of this restoration is that "the mountains shall drip sweet wine" (Amos 9:11-15). When the elements of a fallen creation fail and run short at a wedding feast, our Lord Jesus steps in to restore creation and miraculously changes water into an abundance of the very best wine (John 2:1-11). With this sign, Christ manifests His glory. The "back" of God (Ex. 33:12-23) is revealed to those who believe. The hour will come when Jesus will again manifest His glory by taking creation's curse into His own body to release us from its power. The Bridegroom will give His life for the Bride (Eph. 5:22-32), and from His side will flow water and blood, the holy sacraments by which she is cleansed and made one with Him. Through this sacrificial love of Christ we are enabled to "love one another with brotherly affection . . ." and to "outdo one another in showing honor" (Rom. 12:6-16).

❖ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ❖

Our Hymn of the Day today, *The Only Son from Heaven* (LSB 402), has an interesting background. The following is taken from "The Word in Song: Hymn of the Day Studies," available at lcms.org. "This hymn holds many distinctions. It is one of the earliest Lutheran hymns, as it was written around 1524, right about the time that Martin Luther began in earnest to revive the hymnody of the Church. Hymns from that period are well known for being substantive, and this one is no exception. The author of our hymn was Elisabeth (Meseritz) Cruciger (1500-1535), an ex-nun from Rega who married a theologian named Caspar Cruciger in 1524. She and her husband became close friends of Martin and Katherine Luther and could often be found around the Luther dinner table. Given her age and the times in which she lived, it is nothing short of amazing that Luther and his colleague, Kantor Johann Walter, approved this text for the earliest Lutheran hymnals. The hymn was not included in *The Lutheran Hymnal* of 1941, but was reintroduced in the Missouri Synod with its inclusion in *Lutheran Worship* in 1982. It has slowly but steadily gained acceptance and popularity in our circles since that time."

❖ 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 67 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- **PONDER** today's Hymn of the Day, LSB 402, "The Only Son from Heaven"

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 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (January 21, 2024)

Jesus shows His glory before He goes on to His suffering and death.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Old Testament: | Exodus 34:29-35 — Moses' shining face. |
| Psalm: | Psalm 99 — "The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!" |
| Epistle: | 2 Peter 1:16-21 — Eyewitnesses of Jesus' majesty. |
| Holy Gospel: | Matthew 17:1-9 — Jesus gloriously transfigured. |



✂ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✂

OPEN ALTAR VASES for Sunday, January 21, 28, February 4, and 11. Lent will start Feb. 14 and there are no altar vases during Lent. Altar vases are \$25 each, if you want to place a vase please contact Carol, 314-691-3619. Flowers are yours to take home after the service.

NEW EPIPHANY BANNERS AND THEIR MEANING: In the northern hemisphere, we give thanks for the increasing daylight during this time of year just as we give thanks for the Light of Christ during the Epiphany season. The *Star* banner reminds us that Christ is “A light to lighten the Gentiles” (Luke 2:32). The *Crown and Scepter* banner reminds us of the Gentile Magi from the East who studied and believed the prophetic Scriptures and came to worship the “King of the Jews” (Matthew 2:2).

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.

CALLING ALL MEN AND BOYS OF HOPE: You are cordially invited to join Elders and Pastor for a time of warm Christian fellowship, devotion, planning and LUNCH here at church on Saturday, February 3, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Our simple aim is to do some informal brainstorming on potential future men’s events at Hope. Single or married, father or son – please mark your calendars now and send an RSVP email to our Elders Chairman, Kevin Robson, at kevindrobson@gmail.com with names and number attending.

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

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, January 14: **John 2:5 – “His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’”** What must Mary have thought when Jesus replied, “What does this have to do with me?” (John 2:4). But she knew that whatever her Son said to do would be a blessing, so she knew what advice to give to the servants: Do whatever He tells you! That’s still good advice for us in every aspect of our lives, including in our generosity toward the Lord’s work in the church.

DRIVERS ARE NEEDED by Christian Friends of New Americans DURING THE DAY to support refugee families by driving individuals to medical appointments. If you are available to support CFNA in this way, please contact Paige Bernau, Health and Wellness Coordinator at 314-828-5413. Thank you!

✂ STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✂		
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Sunday: 69	FINANCIAL ✂ December 24 – January 6	
	Dec. 24 – Jan. 6	Year To Date through November
	<u>Actual</u> <u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>Budgeted</u>
	Income: \$20,398 \$13,184	Income: \$310,406 \$321,928
	Expense: \$15,388 \$17,768	Expense: \$282,252 \$293,779
THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✂ January 14, 2024		
SCHEDULE	SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS	WEEK’S CALENDAR
9:00 – DIVINE SERVICE Live stream at www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl	2nd Floor: Early Childhood Sunday School	MONDAY <i>Martin Luther King Day- Church office Closed</i>
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 <i>5:00 Kantorei rehearsal</i>
11:30 – Schola Rehearsal		THURSDAY
		FRIDAY <i>7:00 English Country Dance</i>
		SATURDAY <i>Pastor’s day off</i>