



# Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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## WEEKLY NEWS ✠ January 28, 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 ✠

#### GRACE ALONE

The people of Israel contended with the Lord in the wilderness (Ex. 17:1-7). They were dissatisfied with His provision. In the same way, the first laborers in the vineyard complained against the landowner for the wage he provided them (Matt. 20:1-16). They charged him with being unfair, but in reality he was being generous. For the Lord does not wish to deal with us on the basis of what we deserve but on the basis of His abounding grace in Christ. The first—those who rely on their own merits—will be last. "For they were overthrown in the wilderness" (1 Cor. 10:5). But the last, those who rely on Christ, will be first. For Christ is the Rock (1 Cor. 9:24-10:5). He is the One who was struck and from whose side blood and water flowed that we may be cleansed of our sin.

### ✠ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ✠

The hymn *Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying* (LSB 826) is well-known and loved within many LCMS congregations. However, its text by Daniel March is law oriented. This focus on the law even lead to its recommendation to be excluded from the *Lutheran Book of Worship* in 1978. To address these concerns and retain a much-loved tune, the *Lutheran Service Book* hymnal committee approached Stephen Starke to pen new gospel focused stanzas. Rather than combine the two texts and create a long-winded hymn, they replaced the original first stanza with Starke's new stanzas, giving birth to our Hymn of the Day for Septuagesima, *Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling* (LSB 827). Stanza one, with its altering of "crying" to "calling" to avoid the confusion of having two hymns with the same title, is a paraphrase of Matthew 20 (today's Gospel). Stanza two paints a picture of workers joining the harvest throughout the day. Jesus' disciples joined in the spreading of the Gospel right away and many generations of the Church have labored throughout history. Today, as the harvest is getting ripe, His church is still laboring to bring in the final harvest. In stanza three we sing of God's Word growing faith in the heart and the final stanza encourages the Church to listen to His voice as we long for, "the time [when] work shall cease," and we "shall enjoy His Sabbath peace."

### ✠ 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 95 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- *PONDER* today's Hymn of the Day, *LSB 827, "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling"*

*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 ✠

SEXAGESIMA ("About 60 Days" – until Easter) (February 4, 2024)

*God sows His Word on various "soils" throughout the world...*

Old Testament: **Isaiah 55:10-13**—God's Word accomplishes its purpose.

Psalms: **Psalm 84**— "Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!"

Epistle: **2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9**—St Paul boasts in his infirmities.

Holy Gospel: **Luke 8:4-15**—God, the Sower, sows the seed of His Word.



✂ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✂

OPEN ALTAR VASES for Sunday, 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.

SEMINARIAN JUSTIN HILTON, Hope’s own Concordia Seminary student, spent some years on a medical missions boat when he was young. So did his lovely wife Grace! Hear of their unique experiences on Saturday, February 3, from 2-4 p.m. International Student Ministry will host a Winter Warm-up event at Webster Gardens Lutheran Church. Come and hear about all the international students coming to St. Louis this year who have never heard of Jesus! St. Louis University alone will host 9,000 international students in 2024. Also enjoy international appetizers throughout the event. Reserve your spot today by calling Sharon at 314-452-6406.

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](mailto:kevindrobson@gmail.com) with names and number attending.

LUTHERAN WITNESS subscription renewal (or take out a new subscription!) time is here. The *Lutheran Witness* provides news from the Synod and teaches how to interpret the world from Lutheran perspective. A yearly subscription is \$20.65. You can put your check in the specific envelope in your Tithing packet, make check payable to Hope Lutheran Church. If you no longer wish to receive an existing subscription, please notify the church office.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, January 28: **1 Corinthians 9:25 – “Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.”** Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit, for the desires of the flesh are at war with the desires of the Spirit. We have received new life in Christ by His grace. Now He calls us to follow Him deliberately, with self-control and with intention.

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!

CHRIST FOR YOU *this week on KFUO AM850 & [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org)*: Study 2 Corinthians 10-13 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m.), study Lamentations 2-4 plus Free Text First Friday on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m.), and hear from Higher Things pastors on their journeys into church work on our Set Apart to Serve series on The Coffee Hour (2/2 at 9:00 a.m.). Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) and the KFUO Radio app!

✂ STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✂						
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Sunday: TBD	FINANCIAL ✂ 2023					
	Dec. 31 – Jan. 13			2023		
		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
	Income:	\$11,237	\$13,141	Income:	\$405,947	\$351,201
	Expense:	\$15,632	\$12,687	Expense:	\$391,195	\$342,766
THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✂ January 28, 2024						
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			
10:15 – Coffee Hour	Basement:  Primary – Junior High Sunday School		TUESDAY			
10:30 – Bible Study/Sunday School	Basement Auditorium:  Luther’s Large Catechism		WEDNESDAY 5:00 Kantorei rehearsal			
11:30 – Schola Rehearsal	Pastor Asburry		THURSDAY			
			FRIDAY			
			SATURDAY Pastor’s day off			