



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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WEEKLY NEWS ✠ February 4, 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 ✠

WORD ALONE

The Sower sows the seed of His Word (Luke 8:4-15). This Word is living and powerful (Heb. 4:9-13) to conceive new life in those who hear it. But the planting of Christ is attacked by the devil, the world, and the flesh. Satan snatches the Word away from hard hearts. The riches and pleasures of this life choke off faith. Shallow and emotional belief withers in time of temptation and trouble. But see how Christ bears this attack for us! Christ's cross was planted in the hard and rocky soil of Golgotha. A crown of thorns was placed upon His head. Satan and His demons hellishly hounded and devoured Him. Yet, through His dying and rising again, He destroyed these enemies of ours. Jesus is Himself the Seed which fell to the ground and died in order that it might sprout forth to new life and produce much grain. In Him, the weak are strong (2 Cor. 11:19-12:9). He is the Word of the Father which does not return void (Is. 55:10-13) but yields a harvest hundredfold.

✠ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ✠

By Scripture Alone. From today's Gospel reading of the Parable of the Sower we learn how important it is to be well fed – well fed in the Word of God, so that we might grow in good soil and yield much fruit. All our hymns today focus on this idea, the idea of being in the Word. From Martin Luther's Reformation hymn, *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*, to Martin Franzmann's twentieth century hymn, *Thy Strong Word*, we are constantly reminded of our vocation as God's children. The first four stanzas of *Thy Strong Word* retell salvation's story, tracing history from creation to God's redeeming sacrifice on the cross. The final two stanzas are our response, including a prayer that God would "give us lips to sing Thy glory, tongues thy mercy to proclaim."

✠ 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 84 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- **PONDER** today's Hymn of the Day, *LSB 823, "May God Bestow on Us His Grace"*

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 ✠

QUINQUAGESIMA ("50 Days" – until Easter) (February 11, 2024)

The Lord Jesus is on His way up to Jerusalem.

Old Testament: **1 Samuel 16:1-13** – God anoints David to be king of Israel.

Psalm: **Psalm 146** – "I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being."

Epistle: **1 Corinthians 13:1-13** – The greatest of these is love – love in the Christian life.

Holy Gospel: **Luke 18:31-43** – Jesus heals the blind man – that we may see Him on His way to Jerusalem.



✂ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✂

OPEN ALTAR VASES for Sunday, February 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.

FLOWER VASES PLACED AT THE ALTAR to the praise and glory of God by Carol Spyers in memory of her husband, Olin, whose birthday was Feb. 2; and in honor of her daughter- in-law, Cathy, whose birthday is Feb. 13.

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.

NEW GREEN BANNERS AND THEIR MEANING: Green banners are used for “ordinary time” –Sundays between Trinity Sunday and Advent and the three Sundays of Pre-Lent. The green color represents growth and life. Banner #1 with the open Bible and candle communicates Christ as the light and the Word: “Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world...’” (John 8:12), and “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us...” (John 1:14). Banner #2 with the shell and chalice keeps Baptism and the Lord’s Supper before our eyes. All of our new banners are designed with repeating elements tied to our church furniture. The archway at the top matches the arch on the front of the lectern and pulpit. The rose at the bottom of each banner is also found on the lectern and pulpit.

STEWARDSHIP BLURB FOR SUNDAY, February 4: **Luke 8:5 – “And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot ...”** Know any farmers like this? Who just throws their crop seed wherever? That’s crazy! But God’s ways are not our ways – He is generous beyond compare! He delights in giving. As we are more and more conformed to His image, may we also learn the joy of generosity and giving!

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!

FROM SHARON RIORDAN, Director of International Student Ministry of St. Louis: Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord at Hope,Your continued generosity to International Student Ministry truly humbles us. The academic year is going so well with record numbers of students attending our events. The events are always free of cost to the students because of your kindness and support. Thank you for partnering with us as we share ourselves and share Christ. Your congregation is mighty in the Lord!

✂ STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✂				
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Sunday: 76	FINANCIAL ✂ 2023			
	Dec. 31 – Jan. 13		2023	
	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted
	Income: \$11,237	\$13,141	Income: \$405,947	\$351,201
	Expense: \$15,632	\$12,687	Expense: \$391,195	\$342,766
THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✂ February 4, 2024				
SCHEDULE	SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR OFFERINGS		WEEK’S CALENDAR	
9:00 – DIVINE SERVICE Live stream at www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl	2 nd Floor: Early Childhood Sunday School		MONDAY	
10:15 – Coffee Hour	Basement:		TUESDAY	
10:30 – Bible Study/Sunday School	Primary – Junior High Sunday School		WEDNESDAY NO Kantorei rehearsal	
11:30 – Schola Rehearsal	Basement Auditorium: Luther’s Large Catechism Pastor Asburry		THURSDAY 6:00 Thrive Parent University	
			FRIDAY	
			SATURDAY Pastor’s day off	