



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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WEEKLY NEWS ❖ February 11, 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 ❖

FAITH ALONE

The seeing are blind, while the one who is blind can see (Luke 18:31-43). Jesus tells the twelve that He is going up to Jerusalem to suffer and die and rise again, but they cannot understand or grasp what He is saying. The meaning of His words is hidden from their sight. However, as Jesus makes His way up to Jerusalem, a blind man calls out to Him for mercy. This blind man sees that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior, for he calls Him "Son of David." Indeed, Jesus is the Lord's anointed, the keeper of sheep (1 Sam. 16:1-13) who goes to lay down His life for the sheep. He is the incarnate love of the Father who suffers long and is kind, who is not puffed up, who never fails us (1 Cor. 13:1-13). Jesus opens the eyes of the blind (Is. 35:3-7) to see Him not according to outward appearances of lowliness, but according to His heart of mercy and compassion. Those who behold Him thus by faith follow Him to the cross through death into life.

❖ THE MUSIC FOR TODAY ❖

In 1986, Lutheran pastor Rusty Edwards (b. 1955) opened his Bible with the intention of creating a Bible study on the actual life and unique ministry of Jesus: What on earth did Jesus really do? As I prayed, studied, and thanked God for the life of Jesus, I began to write down some of his works. The list grew longer. Suddenly, I gazed down at the list and the list looked almost like a hymn. (Rusty Edwards, "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness," *CrossAccent* 15, no. 2 [2007]: 39) Edwards then set aside the Bible study and composed "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness," a celebration of the marvelous works of the incarnate Son of God. This hymn is deeply descriptive of the life and works of Jesus. It is filled with biblical imagery. Yet Jesus is not explicitly mentioned by name until the third stanza. The hymn begins by celebrating the freedom that is brought by the "light" (John 1:4-9) who breaks the darkness. Out of that light comes freedom and all its benefits (described in st. 1). Read John 8:34-36. In the second stanza humanity (the children), the spiritual realm (demons), and the whole of creation (burning sand) are made whole by the one who is "living water." Read John 4:7-15. The hymn concludes with the explicit identification of "the One" as the incarnate Word. We have been moved from table (Communion) to font (Baptism), and now the hymn concludes with a focus on the grace that table and font bring. Edwards saves the best for last. Read John 3:16-17. (taken from *The Word in Song*)

❖ 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 146 in the front part of *Lutheran Service Book*.
- **PONDER** today's Hymn of the Day, *LSB* 849, "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness".

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 ❖

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (February 18, 2024)

Jesus is tempted as we are, and thus He is the way out of our sin.

Old Testament: **Genesis 3:1-21** – The Fall into sin (our need for a Savior).

Psalm: **Psalm 32** – "You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble"

Epistle: **2 Corinthians 6:1-10** – Now is the day of God's salvation.

Holy Gospel: **Matthew 4:1-11** – The Temptation of Jesus.



✠ PARISH NEWS AND NOTES ✠

TODAY WE RECEIVE SCOTT & MELANIE SCHWIESOW, and their daughters Anna and Claire, into membership at Hope. They transfer from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Las Vegas, NV. We welcome the Schwiesows to our Hope family!

THE BASEMENT COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU to attend a town hall presentation on the basement renovation design on Sunday, February 18 during the Bible Class hour (10:30-11:30 AM). The committee has continued to work with the architect and has new images to show based on the feedback received over the past several months. The committee is excited to share the updates and get further input from the congregation. The Building Committee will also provide an update on the capital campaign, and the process of moving the project toward voters’ approval in the coming months. This is an exciting time in the life of the congregation. Renovated space will allow us to expand our education and fellowship opportunities, strengthen our members, and serve our community. Please join us on Sunday, February 18.

YOU ARE INVITED TO “The Ashes Go on Singing” – A Hymn Festival on the Hymns of Martin Luther at 3 p.m. CT Sunday, Feb. 18, in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105. Led by the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale, *Laudamus*, and an orchestra of brass, strings, woodwinds and organ, this hymn festival will celebrate five centuries of singing the hymns of Martin Luther. Peter Reske, senior editor of music/worship at Concordia Publishing House, will provide narration. This event will take place following the annual Prevallet Hymn Writing Workshop the previous day. The festival also will be livestreamed at [csl.edu/live](https://www.csl.edu/live).

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 11: **Luke 18:34 - “This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.”** Even our understanding of the Word of God is a gift – the disciples can’t understand Jesus because it is not given to them to understand Him. By nature, they are deaf to the Word. So, everything we have is a gift of God. To realize this is the beginning of thankfulness, generosity, and kindness.

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO AM850 & kfuo.org: Hear stories about mental health, LCMS history, and the history of LCMS Black Ministry on The Coffee Hour (weekdays at 9:00 a.m.), continue studying Galatians 3-4 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m.), study Deuteronomy 5-8 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m.), and enjoy Ash Wednesday Organ Recital and Worship Service on 2/14 at 11:00 a.m. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or the KFUO Radio app!

✠ STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE ✠		
ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Sunday: 98	FINANCIAL ✠ January 21 – February 3	
	Jan. 21 – Feb. 3	
	Actual	Budgeted
	Income: \$9,270	\$13,329
	2023	
	Actual	Budgeted
	Income: \$405,947	\$351,201
	Expense: \$391,195	\$342,766
THIS WEEK AT HOPE ✠ February 11, 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: Primary – Junior High Sunday School	TUESDAY
10:30 – Bible Study/Sunday School	Basement Auditorium: Luther’s Large Catechism	WEDNESDAY 5:00 Kantorei rehearsal 7:00 Ash Wednesday Divine Service
11:30 – Schola Rehearsal	Pastor Asburry	THURSDAY 6:00 Thrive Parent University
		FRIDAY
		SATURDAY Pastor’s day off