

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
7355 Silver Lake Rd. P.O. Box 188 Linden, MI (810) 735-4807
hopelclm@gmail.com Web: www.hopelinden.org
www.facebook.com/HopeLinden

PASTOR: Rev. Paul Kollek MUSIC LEADER: Mark Siefert
OFFICE MANAGER: April O'Toole

Hope Lutheran Church exists to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ, and to develop our lives as his Disciples

What's Really Important In Life?
January 3, 2021

AS WE GATHER

The end of a calendar year and the beginning of a new set of months brings a special opportunity to look at our lives. What has been most memorable in our lives in the past weeks and months? How might our priorities change in the next months? The Readings in today's service are not often heard because the calendar does not always bring two Sundays after Christmas. Wisdom is waiting to be found by each of us here in this place today as we hear God's Word and seek His kingdom in this New Year of grace. God's wisdom is here to bless us each time we gather for worship!

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING SONG: Within the Father's House (LSB 410)

- 1 Within the Father's house
 The Son has found His home,
 And to His temple suddenly
 The Lord of life has come.
- 2 The doctors of the Law
 Gaze on the wondrous child
 And marvel at His gracious words
 Of wisdom undefiled.
- 3 Yet not to them is giv'n
 The mighty truth to know,
 To lift the earthly veil that hides
 Incarnate God below.

- 4 The secret of the Lord
Escapes each human eye,
And faithful pond'ring hearts await
The full epiphany.
- 5 Lord, visit Thou our souls
And teach us by Thy grace
Each dim revealing of Thyself
With loving awe to trace
- △ 6 Till we behold Thy face
And know as we are known
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Coequal Three in One.

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord:
C I will put My laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
- P** And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.
C For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."
- P** I was glad when they said to me,
C "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious and heavenly Father.
C Eternal God, we confess that by nature we are sinful people. We have transgressed Your Law in many ways, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not always been wise in our thinking and our speaking and our actions. Our motives and thoughts have not always been pure. We deserve Your punishment now and for eternity. O God, in Your mercy forgive our sin and restore us to a full and joyful relationship with You, through the merits of Jesus, our Lord. Direct all that we do by Your Holy Spirit that in the year now beginning we joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your Commandments as Your redeemed people.

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.

C **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: Better Is One Day

Verse 1

How lovely is Your dwelling place
O Lord almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for You
For here my heart is satisfied
Within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

Chorus

Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere
(Than thousands elsewhere)

Verse 2

One thing I ask and I would seek
To see Your beauty
To find You in the place
Your glory dwells
(REPEAT)

Bridge

My heart and flesh cry out
For You the living God
Your Spirit's water to my soul
I've tasted and I've seen
Come once again to me
I will draw near to You
I will draw near to You to You

Bridge

Better is one day better is one day
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere
Better is one day better is one day
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. Almighty Father, You have shined on us the new Light of Your Word made flesh, who lived among us. Cause us to find in Jesus, this Light, who and what is really important in life, and grant us Your blessing as we follow Him; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Kings 3:4–15

⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴ And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

¹⁵ And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:3–14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:40–52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN: Who You Say I Am

Verse 1

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

Chorus 1

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

Verse 2

Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

Chorus 2

In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

Bridge

I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am

Tag

(Oh) (Yes) I am who You say I am

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SERMON: Pastor Paul Kollek

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life \dagger everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the Church, that the light of the Gospel of salvation be proclaimed here and everywhere, the wisdom of God be honored and followed, and the gifts of God be treasured and shared. Lord of the Church,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

P We pray as this New Year begins for our nation and for all of the people of the world, that there be an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness and wellness everywhere prevail. Lord of all times and all people,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

P We pray for our families and our neighbors. Help us to remember that each person in our lives is a precious gift from God. Guided by the Holy Spirit, help us to choose wisely how we invest our time in the coming weeks and find in our associations with God's people a source of mutual support and blessing. Lord of all generations,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

P We pray for all sorts and conditions of people, especially making our petitions for the hospitalized and those who are shut in. We pray for those whose lives are in transition, the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and for all those for whom our intercession is desired, [*including . . .*]. Lord of care and grace,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

P As a community of the faithful gathered, we remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this earthly life, especially those whose earthly lives came to an end in the past year. Direct our ways that we complete our journey of life in faith with divine wisdom to direct us. At the end of our days, bring us to rejoice together eternally with saints and angels and all the company of heaven in light everlasting. Lord of eternity,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who taught us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING SONG Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (LSB 393)

1 Infant holy,
Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing,
Little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging,
Angels singing,
Bells are ringing,
Tidings bringing:

Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

- 2 Flocks were sleeping,
 Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
 Saw the glory,
 Heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
 Thus rejoicing,
 Free from sorrow,
 Praises voicing,
 Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God!**

REACHING OUR VISION OBJECTIVES
People Passionate About Christ

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORD AND WORSHIP

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES We are having in-person Sunday worship services at 8:30am (in which masks must be worn during the entire service), 10:30am (with regular COVID guidelines applied). If you are not comfortable attending in person worship services, the services are recorded, and will be available online the following Monday on our website at hopelinden.org. Please contact Pastor if you would like to schedule a time for private communion or confession.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 5TH GRADE is at 9:30am. A 45 minute class using the DIG IN curriculum will be taught by Kathy Collard.

HOPE FAMILY MEMBERS NOT CURRENTLY ATTENDING SERVICES: Please let the church office know if you need help of any kind in running errands, grocery shopping, prescription pick up, etc. Also, please let us know if you would like a visit from Pastor, even if it is just for coffee! You are also welcome to visit here at the church where safe distances can be maintained. We are here for you!

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTREACH

FISH FOOD PANTRY is still collecting personal hygiene products, household cleaners, paper products, etc. You may leave your donations in the bin located downstairs in the Sunday School hallway. If you are unable to go downstairs, please leave your donation in the church office.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2021 ARE IN YOUR CHURCH MAILBOXES! You will notice that we changed companies providing our envelopes, and they will look a little different. There are only envelopes for a weekly offering. If you would like to leave a special offering for Missions, Master Plan, Needy Families or the Backpack Program, there will be blank envelopes in the narthex, or you can designate a special offering on your regular envelope.

MEMORIAL GIFT

Hope was recently given a generous memorial gift from the family of Jean Case in the amount of \$28,551.00. Jean was a long-time member of Hope who died last December. Jean loved our church and arranged for us to receive this bequest. Hope's council is currently considering the best way to honor Jean's memory with this gift. We give praise to God for Jean's faithfulness!

CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

<u>Elder:</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>	<u>Family Name:</u>
Doug Barber	dbarber@bbande.com (248)705-6749	A – B
Jim Colmer	jcolmer@bbande.com (989)271-9170	C– K
Mike Bickford	michaelsbickford@gmail.com (810)498-8606	L – O
Kevin Golden	kgolden@hodgessupply.com (248)431-6815	P – Sc
Ken Konsza	kkonsza@charter.net (810)259-6678	Sd –Z
Pastor Paul Kollek	pkkollek@aol.com (989)277-3460	
Church Office	hopelclm@gmail.com (810)735-4807	

Worship 12/24

5pm 34
7pm 29

Worship 12/25

10am 14

Worship 12/27

8:30am 11
10:30am 28

Collections 12/24, 12/25 and 12/27

Givings 13,166.00
Paypal 275.00
Electronic Givings 405.00

Weekly Givings 13846.00
*Weekly Fixed Expenses 3000.00
Weekly Overage 10,846.00
Fiscal YTD Shortfall -1666.00

*Memorial contributions should not be included

***Weekly Fixed Expenses are Payroll, Mortgage and Utilities Only. They do not include other discretionary spending.**

Next Week at Hope

Regular hours are Monday-
Thursday 9am to 2pm.

MONDAY, January 4, 2020

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOM
WILLIAMS!**

TUESDAY, January 5, 2020

Wrestling 5-8pm

WEDNESDAY, January 6, 2020

Wrestling 5-8pm

THURSDAY, January 7, 2020

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY CLIFF
MAYERS!**

FRIDAY, January 8, 2021

Office is Closed

SATURDAY, January 9, 2021**SUNDAY, January 10, 2021**

8:30am ALL MASK service
9:30am Sunday School for K-5
10:30am Worship Service
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY AL
AWRYLO!**