

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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PASTOR: Rev. Paul Kollek

MUSIC MINISTRY LEADER: Teri Lynn Barnaby

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.

REJOICE AT WHAT YOU SEE AND HEAR

December 14, 2025

AS WE GATHER

It is certainly easy to complain. We all do it. We look around and see all those things that are not what we think they should be. We look in the mirror and we see what we lack. When John sent his disciples to Jesus, Jesus called them to rejoice in what is already present. Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, had come. He brings healing and salvation to all who will receive Him. Quite literally, these miracles are still happening all around us. Those wounded by affliction and despair find healing in Christ. The dead in trespasses and sins are raised up to life. The weak are made strong, the poor are made rich, and those with only a past are given an eternal future. What do you see and hear? Look at the world, and you will find only complaint and fear; but look to Jesus, and you will find peace that surpasses all understanding and joy without end.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

John 1:5, 9; 15:10–11; Psalm 100:1–5

P We light the third Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh, and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P The third, pink Advent candle has been known as the shepherd candle or the candle of joy. The third Sunday of Advent is known also as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* in Latin means “rejoice,” as found in Philippians 4:4. We find our joy in Christ this season and always as we prepare to celebrate His birth. Jesus affirms the joy found only in Him as we remain connected to Him: “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

C **The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**

P Guided by the light of joy, we respond with the psalmist: “Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!”

C Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

P Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

C Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

P For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

C and His faithfulness to all generations.

ADVENT HYMN: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (LSB 357 v.1-3)

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN: Come Thou Precious Ransom Come (LSB 350)

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 146:5, 7b–8a; Philippians 1:6

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God.

C The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

Silence for self-examination.

P Holy and gracious God,

C I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

CONFESSION SONG: We Fall Down

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE: *Please stand and greet one another with the Peace of Christ.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35:1–10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

James 5:7–11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2–15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’”

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by

force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN: To Shepherds as They Watched By Night (TLH 103)

SERMON: Pastor Paul Kollek

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** (After each petition) Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

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

- P** Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Before the dawn of the ages, You sent forth from Your love all that is and declared it good. When, in the rebellion against Your goodness, we chose the path of sin and rebellion, You did not stop loving us but promised the day when that love would be enfleshed in Your own Son, born of the virgin, for the sake of the whole world. Having come in obedience to Your saving will and having offered Himself in our place upon the cross, You have set Your Table among us and called us to feast upon the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation.
- C** Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach 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.

PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you, Pastor.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

- C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (LSB 341)
Savior of the Nations, Come (LSB 332)

THANK THE LORD

LSB 164

- C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
C for His steadfast love endures forever.
- P** Almighty God, You gave Your servant John the Baptist to be the forerunner of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in both his preaching of repentance and his innocent death. Grant that we, who have died and risen with Christ in Holy Baptism, may daily repent of our sins, patiently suffer for the sake of the truth, and fearlessly bear witness to His victory over death; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

- 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: God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

*The Altar Flowers this week are in
Memory of Diana Rebhahn, her parents,
and the parents of Doug Rebhahn.*

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORD AND WORSHIP

WORSHIP SERVICES Worship service is on Sundays at 9:30am. If you are unable to attend in person, the services are recorded and will be available on our website at hopelinden.org.

BIBLE STUDIES

- **Coffee & Questions** with Pastor on Sunday Mornings after Worship. Stay after for great fellowship and conversation! This is a very informal time for sharing and learning and is open to everyone of all ages! We encourage everyone to stay—you will love it!
- **Women's At Home Bible Study** can be done at your convenience. Pick up December's packet in the Narthex.
- **Wednesday Evening Advent Services at 7pm.**
- **Women's Bible Study on the book of Isaiah** on Tuesdays at 10am. You can jump into this study even if you never attended before. Please contact Barb Wright with questions.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS If you would like to help adorn the Church for the Christmas season, there are special envelopes located in the Narthex for your donation toward the cost of purchasing poinsettias. All sizes of contributions are welcome. Place the envelope in the regular offering basket. Questions can be directed to Connie Casselton at 810-869-1438.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTREACH

OASIS for Linden Middle Schoolers is on Thursdays at 2:30 pm. Volunteers are always welcome and needed!

QUESTIONS REGARDING OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES CAN BE REFERRED TO KIM COLMER AT (586)383-572

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP

Guests, please fill out the Guest Registration card located in the pew. Members and regular attendees no longer need to sign in as we are streamlining our attendance accounting.

2025 HOLIDAY Worship Services

- Wednesday Advent Services
December 3rd, 10th and 17th at 7pm
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24th at 6pm
- Christmas Day Service
December 25th at 9:30am

NEXT WEEK
Office Hours
M-Th 9am-Noon

Monday, December 15

Tuesday, December 16
Women's Bible Study at 10am

Wednesday, December 17
NO Adult Bible Study at 10am
Choir 6pm
Advent Service at 7pm

Thursday, December 18
OASIS 2:30 to 5:00PM
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
DEBBIE BLACKBURN!

Friday, December 19
Office Closed

Saturday, December 20
Gym Rented

Sunday, December 21
Worship Service at 9:30am

CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

Elder: **Contact Information** **Family Name:**

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Weekly Information

Attendance

12/7/25 Worship 9:30.....43
12/7/25 Coffee and Questionsx
12/9/25 Women's Bible Study4
12/10/25 Advent Service4

Collections and Facility Income

12/7/253331.00
Givings Needed Weekly to meet budget3337.52

Financial Update for November 2025

Actual Revenue13467.87
Actual Expenditures13457.99
Actual Net Income9.88
YTD Shortage (16,354.32)

**YTD does not include special offerings and memorials.*



QR Code for giving via PayPal.