WELCOME - **HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH** - LCMS
3715 Wabash Avenue, Granite City, IL 62040-3977 (**church office, 618-876-7568**)
The Rev. Alan Beuster, Pastor (618-570-4611)
www.hopelutherangc.org/Hopelutherangc@gmail.com
"Sharing Hope In The Joy Of Christ"

Sundays - Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School - Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.
1st Sunday after Christmas December 31, 2023

HYMNS 386 – 389 – 374 – 359, 358 – 924

ORDER OF SERVICE Hymnal page 203 then proceed to the Kyrie, p. 204

RESPONSE: sing after the 1st Reading at pg. 205 Psalm 111; ♫ *tone B*

Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my | whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congre- | gation.
Great are the works | of the Lord,
studied by all who de- | light in them.
Full of splendor and majesty | is his work,
and his righteousness endures for- | ever.
He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant for- | ever
Holy and awesome | is his name!
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good under- | standing.
His praise endures for- | ever!

Altar Flowers — Keith, Sebastian and Bailey Dauble — in memory of anniversary of George and Linda Dauble. ***Reader*** — Marlene Pennekamp. ***Assisting*** — Ken Halbe. ***Crucifer*** – Travis Pennekamp. ***Altar Guild*** — Janette Barry. ***Organ*** — Jackie Tieman. ***Last wk*** – attnd, 44; offrg, $4,831.

Greetings to our Guests. We are glad you have joined us in worship. We trust you will draw strength, peace, and hope as together we hear God's Word. It is truly our intent to welcome you and make you feel comfortable here in God's house. Since communion implies unity of faith *we do not practice open communion* but invite those not fully united with us to enter full membership in the Lutheran community first before receiving the Sacrament. Sit-down communion, front left. We are called by God to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Centered in Word and Sacrament, and receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we live the Christian life by faith.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: Sundays − (children, teens, adults); 8:30 − 9:15 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study; **Tuesdays** −10:00 − 11:00 a.m. Bible Study; and Third **Saturday** – Men's Breakfast Fellowship, 8:00 − 9:30 a.m. Bible study and Christian growth opportunities are for everyone all year.

OTHER WAYS WE ARE STAYING IN TOUCH. You can view live or any time later our church services and daily devotions by going to: **HopeLutheranChurch GraniteCity,IL–Posts/Facebook.** We also continue to keep our website current: **www.hopelutherangc.org** with information, upcoming events, and manuscripts of our sermons and bulletins. CD audio recordings of each of our services are also available. Arrangements can be made for private communion or a home visit by contacting Pastor.

THIS WEEK AT HOPE: Today, beginning at 6:00 p.m. will be our **New Year's Eve party. Tuesday** at 10:00 a.m. is **Bible Study,** at 11:30 a.m. is **Social Ministry Committee Meeting** and at 3:30 p.m. is **Alcoholics' Anonymous**. **Wednesday** from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Pastor will be in **Prison Ministry. Thursday** Pastor will be in **Sidewalk Ministry** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pastor will continue to be posting a **daily devotion** on **Hope's Facebook page.** Beginning Tuesday, January 2, full activities will resume.

LOOKING AHEAD: There will be no BUNKO in January (resume in February). Board of Elders Meeting is January 9. Taking down of church Christmas decorations will be January 13. We've Been There Group is January 15. Voters' Assembly Meeting is January 23.

PLEASE JOIN US TONIGHT for our New Year's Eve Party. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It is kept simple and low key. A meal will be provided and everyone is invited to bring a snack to share and any games you want to play. You can come and go as you desire, and usually activities close down before 10:00 p.m.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE. Many of you have already taken your new envelopes; but if you have not already done so, they are available on the table in the narthex in alphabetical order. Please take them but please do not begin using them until 2024. If you have any questions about any of this, please see Jean Tindall, Sandy Jessee, or Linda Stearns.

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY at 11:30 a.m. Ladies – please make plans to join them. Thank you for all the projects you worked this last year and God's blessings in the year ahead.

A TIME TO REFLECT. As we come to the end of 2023, Pastor and Sandy would like to thank everyone for their kindness, support, encouragement, and cooperation this past year. It is a blessing and joy to serve this congregation. God's blessings to each of you as we move forward in the year ahead.

POINSETTIAS. If you purchased a poinsettia and have not already done so, please feel free to take them following the service today.

NEED ASSISTANCE? Please know that our Care Committee is always available to help. Even if you just need someone to listen while you talk. As needs arise, please contact Wanda Wuehler (618-920-1929), Sandy Townzen (618-304-8692), or Pastor.

A TIME FOR REDEDICATION AND MOVING FORWARD: The end of the calendar year always gives us opportunity to reflect, refocus, and reenergize ourselves. There is never a bad time; but now is a good time to joyfully move forward in your involvement in the church. Many projects to be done, many opportunities for Bible studies and worship, and even just fun and fellowship amongst our members as the family of believers at Hope. Led by the Holy Spirit, let's make 2024 a great year for you and the church.

THEME FOR THE DAY: New Year's Eve; a time to reflect, return, and rejoice. Our Lord speaks to us much about this in our Gospel reading regarding the purification of Mary, and the presentation of Jesus in the temple; and their meeting up with Simeon and Anna. As we look at what all took place, and as we consider ourselves, it is Christ who is at the center of it all. Today we will consider all this in a message entitled, "From Holy To Human."