



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER

Worship every Sunday at 10:30 am

Childcare is available



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

**4201 Guilford Drive
College Park, Maryland 20740**



www.hopecp.org 301-927-5508 www.thehumblewalk.org

Large print bulletins are available from the usher

Hope Lutheran Church and Student Center is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a community of growing disciples of Jesus Christ who love our neighbors, both near and far. We affirm that everyone is created in the image of God and is deserving of God's love and grace. We recognize that for many people, "church" has not always felt like a welcoming place. We celebrate our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, race, ethnicity, culture, and age. We embrace differences in relationship status, physical and mental ability, education, income, worldview, and political affiliation. We are committed to the full inclusion of all people in our community and invite you to journey with us toward a deeper faith, mutual respect, greater love and understanding, and reconciliation through Jesus Christ.

If you need to leave the sanctuary for any reason, you may view the service from a phone or another device. You are welcome to return to worship for communion, fellowship, or any portion of special interest to you.

JOIN WORSHIP FROM YOUR PHONE:

Scan to access our Zoom
or call in: 301.715.8592
Meeting ID: 840 5599 7546
Password: 112233



Gathering: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome

↑ Gathering Hymn 275: Angels from the Realms of Glory

Call to Worship *adapted from "First Coming" by Madeleine L'Engle*

Leader: God did not wait till the world was ready, till the nations were at peace.

People: God came when the heavens were unsteady, and prisoners cried out for release.

Leader: God did not wait for the perfect time. God came when the need was deep and great.

People: God dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine. God did not wait till hearts were pure.

Leader: In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.

People: To a world like ours of anguished shame God came, and God's light would not go out.

Leader: God came to a world which did not mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

People: In the mystery of Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born.

Leader: We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice, for to share our grief, to touch our pain,

People: God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Prayer of Illumination

Let us pray together:

Emmanuel, God with us, open us to your presence among us today. Open our ears and our hearts, that we might come to know you better through the scriptures, the poems shared, and the Spirit moving in our own reflections as we celebrate your arrival in our world and in our lives. Amen.

Carol 257: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 1-2, 6-7)

**Word: God speaks to us in scripture reading,
preaching and song.**

↴ First Reading

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

A Poem: "*Annunciation to Mary*" by Rainer Maria Rilke

The angel's entrance (you must realize)
was not what made her frightened. The surprise
he gave her by his coming was no more
than sun or moon-beam stirring on the floor
would give another, — she had long since grown
used to the form that angels wear, descending;
never imaging this coming-down
was hard for them. (O it's past comprehending,
how pure she was. Did not one day, a hind
that rested in a wood, watchfully staring,
feel her deep influence, and did it not

conceive the unicorn, then, without pairing,
the pure beast, beast which light begot, —)
No, not to see him enter, but to find
the youthful angel's countenance inclined
so near to her; that when he looked, and she
looked up at him, their looks so merged in one
the world outside grew vacant, suddenly,
and all things being seen, endured and done
were crowded into them: just she and he
eye and its pasture, visions and its view,
here at the point and at this point alone:-
see, this arouses fear. Such fear both knew.

Carol 292: Love Has Come

Second Reading

Luke 1:39-45

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

↑ Carol 882: My Soul Does Magnify the Lord

We sing the Magnificat as Mary sang.

↓ Third Reading

Matthew 1:18-24

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved

to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife

A Poem: "Christmas Dream" by Eugene Peterson

Amiably at home with virtue and evil -
The righteousness of Joseph and Herod's
Wickedness – I'm ever and always a stranger to grace.
I need this annual angel visitation.

- this sudden drive by dream into reality -
to know the virgin conceives and God is with us.
The dream powers its way through winter weather
and gives me vision to see the Jesus gift.

Light from the dream lasts a year. Through
Equinox and solstice I am given twelve months

Of daylight by which to build the crèche where my
Redeemer lives. The fetus of praise grows

deep in my spirit. As autumn wanes I count
the days until I bear the dream again.

Carol 282: It Came upon the Midnight Clear *(verses 1-3)*

Fourth Reading

Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was

taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

A Poem: “Let the Stable Still Astonish” by Leslie Leyland Fields

Let the stable still astonish;
Straw – dirt floor, dull eyes,
Dusty flanks of donkeys, oxen;
Crumbling, crooked walls;
No bed to carry that pain,
And then, the child,
Rag-wrapped, laid to cry
In a trough.
Who would have chosen this?
Who would have said: “Yes,
Let the God of all the heavens and earth
Be born here, in this place?”
Who but the same God
Who stands in the darker, fouler rooms
Of our hearts
And says, “Yes,
Let the God of Heaven and Earth
Be born here –
In this place.

Carol 296: What Child Is This

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

A Poem: "Shepherd's Song at Christmas" by Langston Hughes

Look there at the star!
I, among the least,
Will arise and take
A journey to the East.
But what shall I bring
As a present for the King?
What shall I bring to the Manger?
I will bring a song,
A song that I will sing,
In the Manger.
Watch out for my flocks,
Do not let them stray.
I am going on a journey
Far, far away.
But what shall I bring
As a present for the Child?
What shall I bring to the Manger?

I will bring a lamb,
Gentle, meek, and mild,
A lamb for the Child
In the Manger.
I'm just a shepherd boy,
Very poor I am—
But I know there is
A King in Bethlehem.
What shall I bring
As a present just for Him?
What shall I bring to the Manger?
I will bring my heart
And give my heart to Him.
I will bring my heart
To the Manger.

↑Carol 294: In the Bleak Midwinter

Prayers of the People

*The assisting minister leads a series of prayer petitions. We join in praying together; we end each petition with the close-and-response: "Hear us, O God," with the response: **"Your mercy is great."***

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(With the assisting minister, please pray out loud the first name of each person for whom we pray. If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please secure the person's consent, then reach out to Lauren in the office.)

We pray for people who have requested our ongoing prayers:

John Henry,

Dolores,

Sheena *(relative of Rick),*

Jytte *(pronounced YOU-ta) (Karin's grandmother),*

Tasnim *(friend of Naette),*

Angelo.

And for those who have requested prayers for a time or a season:

Cindy,

Terry,

Leigh,

Nan and Tom,

David,

Ali,

Elena,

Pastor Beth,

Pastor Nadia,

Bob and family,

Joan,

Jopie (*pronounced OH-pee*),
Ginny, on receiving a difficult health diagnosis,
Julie for an upcoming surgery,
Mona and family, for the safety of her family in Haiti,
Rosa, Hope's custodian, as she recovers from a broken kneecap,
Auntie D,
Evis, with health challenges,
Sylvia, recovering from surgery,
Lauren, as she has chronic pain,
Bernice, as she mourns Wayne's recent death,
Dennis and caretakers, Kari and Tyler, and family,
Kathy, undergoing medical tests,
Hope's Property Process,
Community of St. Dysmas, a Lutheran congregation inside Maryland prisons,
Living Water, a Seventh Day Adventist Church, who worships at Hope on Saturdays,
Christian Stability Ministry, a community of refugees who worship at Hope on Sundays,
Our elected officials,
Our bishops, Yehiel and Phil,

and those we name silently or aloud [...pause...]

when it seems all are done

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones. Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Carol 276: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus

During this time of musical offering:

Those worshiping online may make offerings on Hope's website: (www.hopecp.org) - look on the red top bar for the word "Donate." You may also give by text at 844-904-1808.

For those worshiping with us in person, we pass the offering basket. You may also continue giving online or by text.

At this time, children in childcare are invited upstairs for communion.

Musical Offering

Noisy Offering

Kids' Message

↑ Offering Prayer

Let us pray together:

God of glory,

great are your wonders among us

and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,

**that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,
through Christ our Savior.**

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus 289: Angels We Have Heard on High *(verse 1)*

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

We pray together as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

↓ Our Communion Practices

Everyone is welcome to participate in communion. Today Hope offers bread, white grape juice for dipping, pre-filled juice cups with wafers, and pre-filled juice cups with a gluten-free wafer. You may choose to receive bread only and/or one of the cup options. Any version of communion carries the full power of communion. If you prefer not to receive elements, you may cross your arms over your chest for a no-contact, verbal blessing. You are invited forward to stand or kneel at the railing; after those who wish to come forward receive, servers will bring communion to those who prefer to stay in your seats.

Communion Hymn 300: First Noel

↑ Blessing

Sending: God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Seventh Reading

John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

A Benediction Poem: "How the Light Comes" by Jan Richardson

I cannot tell you
how the light comes.
What I know
is that it is more ancient
than imagining. That it travels
across an astounding expanse
to reach us. That it loves
searching out what is hidden,
what is lost,
what is forgotten
or in peril
or in pain. That it has a fondness
for the body,
for finding its way
toward flesh,

for tracing the edges
of form,
for shining forth
through the eye,
the hand,
the heart. I cannot tell you
how the light comes,
but that it does.
That it will.
That it works its way
into the deepest dark
that enfolds you,
though it may seem
long ages in coming
or arrive in a shape you did not foresee. And so
may we this day
turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces
to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies
to follow the arc it makes.
May we open
and open more
and open still
to the blessed light
that comes

Carol 270: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

With gratitude to Melissa A for the first draft of this service.

Today's Worship Leaders

† **Presiding and Preaching Minister:** Pastor Julie

† **Assisting Minister:** Bob

† **Lector:** Pat

† **Ushers:** Jennifer

† **Offering Counter:** Joan and onsite volunteer

† **Communion Set-Up:** Lori

† **Childcare Staff:** Students are on holiday break, parents are invited to stay downstairs with their children

To Contact Us

Pastor: The Rev. Julie

Email: julie.r.bringman@gmail.com

Cell: (510) 529-5606

Administrative Assistant: Lauren

Email: office.hopecp@gmail.com

Office: (301) 927-5508

Church Musician: Chewon

Email: music.hopecp@gmail.com

Office: (301) 927-5508

Campus Pastor: The Rev. Ray

Email: rayranker@gmail.com

Cell: (410) 294-6691

Announcements

Sunday Childcare During Service: During the academic year, childcare is available for children during worship. Two cleared background checked students will care for the children and lead activities during worship services. Over breaks, students travel and parents may use the childcare room if their children choose to leave worship.

Christmas and Epiphany at Hope:

- Today: In-Person worship of Lessons and Carols at Hope
- Wednesday, December 31, 10pm – Thursday, January 1, 2am: New Years Crossover prayer with Christian Stability Ministry at Hope
- Sunday, January 4, 10:30am: Lively Worship and no-rehearsal Christmas Pageant at Hope

Year End Giving: Hope's final worship service of 2025 is both in person and via Zoom. For people who wish to make a year-end gift, you may always give online at www.hopecp.org. If you prefer to write a paper check, you may mail it to Hope. Any check dated on or before December 31, 2025 will be recognized on the 2025 giving statements. Mail will be opened, checks processed and deposited on Thursday, January 8, 2026.

New Members at Hope: In January, Hope will receive new people into formal membership. Talk to Pastor Julie if you would like more information.

Quilters of Hope: Twice a month, a group meets together at Hope to cut, sew, tie and make quilts for neighbors around the world in need of some comfort and care. In the past year, this group of volunteers have completed 14 quilts; 4 went to LWR in March and 10 went to Christian Stability Ministry in November. Anyone can join this group, the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 10am-noon at Hope. No experience necessary. Contact Arlene for more information: WV1958@hotmail.com

Supporting Neighbors in Need: The third Tuesday of each month, Hope volunteers prepare and serve lunch at the PG Plaza Day Center, just a few miles from Hope. This is a meaningful time to be in relationship with each other and our wider community. Talk to Joan for more information: vze27t5t@verizon.net

What's Happening at Hope

Today

10:30am: Christmas Worship with Lessons and Carols; following worship:
Resilience Check-in

1:30-2:30pm: Christian Stability Ministry worships at Hope

This Week

Wednesday, December 31, 10pm – Thursday, January 1, 2am:
New Years Crossover prayer with Christian Stability Ministry

Looking Ahead

Sunday, January 4, 10:30am: Lively Worship and no-rehearsal Christmas
Pageant at Hope and online

Tuesday, January 13, 10am-noon: Quilters of Hope at Hope

Tuesday, January 20, noon-3pm: Hope Serves Lunch at PG Day Center

Wednesday, January 28, 7:30pm: Hope Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 10am-noon: Quilters of Hope at Hope

Sunday, February 1, following worship: Potluck lunch and congregational
meeting at Hope and by zoom

Our Core Values: We are...

*Welcoming,
Growing Disciples who Lead,
Loving our Neighbors,
Near and Far.*