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The Messenger

April
2019

Pastor
The Rev. Paul Herter

Youth/Family Life
Becky Martinal, DCE

Worship
Sundays
8:30 (Classic Praise)
11:00 a.m. (New Song)

Bible Study
Sundays
10:00 a.m. (all ages)
Wednesdays
10:00 a.m. - Ladies
6:30 p.m. - Adults

Don't Miss the Real Jesus!

Dearly Ones for Whom Christ died and is Risen from the Dead!

In recent months, I've been using the t-shirted statement: "Vote for Science" as a springboard into what "science" really teaches and what God (the Inventor of Science) teaches through His Word – the Bible. Lately, I've seen another version of a similar thought: "I Believe in Science." I suppose that the authors of this statement mean that instead of belief in God, they have "faith" in science. Instead, I would agree with the scientist, Johann Kepler: "Science is thinking God's thoughts after Him." *In his astronomical research, Kepler only wanted to, as he put it, "think God's thoughts after Him." Kepler believed that there was an art and orderliness in God's creation and that the more Christians recognized the greatness of creation, the deeper their worship would be. Didn't God Himself encourage the heathen to look carefully at creation so that they might come to know God? The chief aim of all investigations of the external world should be to discover the rational order and harmony which has been imposed on it by God and which He revealed to us in the language of mathematics.**

The modern claims that "science supports it" has philosophical impact on both what our society is taught about the past: "we are products of random evolutionary processes taking over billions of years" – and fears about the future: "Planetary climate change (warming or cooling, depending on when you read about it) will destroy the earth by fill in the blank = (anywhere from 12 to 100 years, depending on who you listen to). Both views are not really supported by true "science" since they are based on certain theories that are, at best, hypothetical – educated guesses that assume that there is no God, no Creator that still upholds His universe. Such assumptions are based more on the philosophical beliefs of secular humanists and atheists than on real science.

Actually, I have found that there is plenty of real science that supports the Bible and no real science that contradicts it.

For those who believe evolutionary theory and/or man-caused global warming are tacitly accepting that life has no essential meaning or purpose and that humanity is finally dependent on itself alone for planetary survival! (During April, the celebration of "Earth Day" has been turned from a proper stewardship concern for the environment to practically a worship of "Mother Earth!")

On the other hand, for Christians who believe God's Word, we accept that life and the universe had a more recent beginning by the command of almighty God and that it will be brought to an end by God's command in His good timing and perfect plan. More than this, we believe that Jesus Christ came to overcome the sin of Adam and all the descendants of Adam and Eve (the first human couple) including you and me! "God made Him Who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Christ is Risen!

Pastor Paul

*Quoted in Dailyledify.com

See also Genesis 1:1: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 1:31: God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. 2:1: Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. 2:2: By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing. 8:22: [After the Flood, the LORD promised] "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." 9:1: [The LORD said to them] "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. 9:3: Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything." *Continued on page 2, column 2*

Stewardship Corner

Finding Contentment in Jesus

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the people in Philippi, he wrote, *"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty"* (Philippians 4:11-12 NIV). We are told by Paul that contentment is a state of mind that is not dependent upon external circumstances. True contentment comes from knowing that God is in control and that He will provide for us.

As God's people, we need to be aware that the society in which we live is trying hard to make us discontent. Advertisements suggest that we can't be content without expensive houses, new cars, exotic vacations, big investments, and the latest in clothes. Our culture tries to make us believe that happiness and contentment are within our reach if we acquire just a few more things.

Our contentment should not be based on the size of our incomes or on our net worth. It has nothing to do with the size of our houses or year of our cars. Contentment can't be bought at a department store or travel agency. Real contentment is not related to outward circumstances.

For many, acquiring money can become a preoccupation and an obsession. We can become slaves to wealth. Greed will not allow contentment, because it will always urge us to acquire more. No matter how we try, we cannot be satisfied by worldly things. The love of money can potentially possess a person's life like no other emotion can. Jesus spoke about the futility of greed in Matthew 16:26 when He asked, *"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul?"* The things we possess will contribute only to fleeting happiness, not an enduring peace and contentment.

When we place our security in money, pride, self-centeredness, and self-sufficiency take over as we make ourselves god, trusting in ourselves rather than God to provide. We become like the Rich Fool, who gave himself credit for his success and desired even more (Luke 16:13-21). We can push God out of our lives.

Contentment comes from dependence on the Lord. When God is our security, we can be content. The Apostle Paul knew both the secret of contentment and how to receive it. Paul told the Philippians and us, *"I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me"* (Philippians 4:13). Without Christ, we will never achieve contentment. A relationship with Christ will redirect our focus from transient earthly pleasures to things of eternal significance. Keeping our eyes on *"the prize"* (Philippians 3:14) will bring about gratitude in our hearts for what we have rather than desiring what we don't have.

Pastor's Article Notes, cont.

2 Peter 3: 4-13: [Scoffers] will say, "where is this 'coming' He promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's Word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

77th Annual Michigan District LLL Convention

May 4, 2019 at Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth

Elaine Bickel will be the guest speaker at the banquet during the 77th annual Michigan District Lutheran Laymen's League convention at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth on May 4, 2019. The banquet begins at 5:00 p.m. All ordained LCMS clergy and laypersons attending for the first time will be admitted free. The theme of the convention banquet is "SENT, Bringing Christ to Everyone." To register, contact John Raffel at 616.894.2936 or john.raffel@gmail.com no later than April 29.

2019 Faith Family Reunion One – Day Retreats

April 27, 2019 at St. Paul, Hamburg
June 29, 2019 at Redeemer, Jackson

Everyone has someone in their life who has strayed away from the faith in Jesus Christ. How can we reach out, not only to the prodigals, but to their parents, family, and friends, who struggle to know what to do? It is important for them to know they are not alone. The Faith Family Reunion retreat will discuss this important issue and introduce a ministry opportunity that churches can easily implement.

February 2019 Stewardship Summary

Average Church Attendance: 94

Average Holy Communion Attendance: 35

Education Hour - Adults & Youth: 27; Confirmation & Elementary: 8.5

Rummage Sale



Rummage Sale is set for April 25-26. That is THURSDAY & FRIDAY. IT IS SPRING CLEANING TIME! Bring in clean items in good repair to help us with this annual fund raiser. Please do not bring in your winter items as there is not room to store them at any of the local

agencies or our church.

Money raised will be used for ministries that Hope supports. You can bring in your items starting now.

Call Sharron for access to the Activity Building where the sale will take place or with any questions you may have. Home number is 517-403-0065.

Please do not remove any items before the sale for pre-purchase. Sharron needs to know what has come in and help get things priced before they are sold. People who help with the setup and pricing are allowed to purchase items before the sale begins as perks for their service. Please do not bring your family members in advance of the sale to buy items or even reserve them. This is not a good practice.

Lots of hands are needed the week before the sale and during the sale. Items not sold will be taken by our workers, who are willing to help, to charities within our county.

Alleluias Return!

Alleluia! He is Risen!

Let the jolly anthems rise,

Let the bells ring out the message

Easter Sunday signifies.

Let each heart be filled with gladness,

Unto Him let praises soar ... for

In truth, He is our Savior

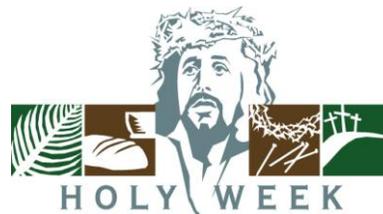
And He lives forevermore!

**This Joyful Eastertide
Away with sin and sorrow!**

**My love, the Crucified,
Has sprung to life this morrow.
Had Christ, Who once was slain,
Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:**

**But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
But now has Christ arisen!**

By George R. Woodward, 1848-1934



PRAYER STATIONS

You are invited to an exciting worship experience! Come and experience Jesus' Passion in a new way as you reflect on His sacrifice for you. Participants will have the opportunity to stop at each of seven (7) multi-sensory stations and connect Biblical truths with their present reality. Stay at each station as long as you wish.

Come on the day and at the time that best fits your schedule. It takes about 45 minutes to complete.

The Prayer Stations will be open:

Monday, April 15 from 4:30 – 8:15 p.m.

Tuesday, April 16 from 4:30 – 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, April 17 from 4:30 – 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 18 from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 19 from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Pastor Paul will present a short devotion at 6:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday, April 18 – **6:30 p.m.**

Communion will be celebrated

Good Friday, April 29 -

Classic Praise

1:00 p.m.

New Song

6:30 p.m.

Guests are always welcome at all our services. Invite a friend or neighbor to meet Jesus.



Christ is Risen!

Easter Worship

Easter Sunday, April 21 -

Classic Praise - **7:00 a.m.**

Education Hour - 10:00 a.m.

New Song - **11:00 a.m.**

Communion celebrated at BOTH SERVICES

Women of Hope!

Hope Women will meet April 8 at 6:30 p.m. at church. We will learn what's being planned for our Mother/Daughter Event and help with those preparations. This will be our last official meeting until September.

Irish Hills Zone Rally April 6

The Irish Hills Zone Spring Rally will be held here at Hope Lutheran Church, *Saturday April 6th* beginning at 9:30 a.m. -- registration and coffee and goodies begins at 9:00 a.m. -- with lunch at 12:00. Lunch will be served so if you do come and are staying for lunch, we will need to know and you will be asked to give \$5 to offset the cost of food.

Our theme is "When, LORD, Did I Help You?" We will hear from Elizabeth Parrish, from Camp Restore Detroit -- "Restoring Hope." Becky took some of our Youth there on a mission trip last summer and the ladies of the LWML Michigan District are invited to go there this summer.

An ingathering of items for Camp Restore Detroit will be received. We are asking for donations of Art Outreach Supplies (washable tempera paint, construction paper, sponge paint brushes, crayons, markers, tacky glue, tape, stickers, feathers, sequins, pom-poms, buttons or beads) or Cleaning Products (all purpose liquid cleaner, liquid hand soap, Windex, Lysol and the like).

We are accepting donations even if you cannot attend the Rally. Please bring to church BEFORE April 6 and mark "Camp Restore Detroit."

Secret Sisters

Are you remembering your Secret Sister? Pray for your Sister daily and remember her regularly with a note. This pleases our Lord and strengthens our relationship with Him and with our fellow believers.

Food Pantry Needs

Our community food pantries continue to minister to more and more families and are low on supplies. Please bring in non-perishable food items and toiletries so that we can continue to help these food pantries.

Your items can be placed behind the Welcome Center in the church lobby.

Thank you for remembering those less fortunate, and please continue to provide as God has commanded us in Matthew 25:40: "*Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.*" NIV

Mother/Daughter Event May 11

Our annual Mother/Daughter event this year will be a brunch / lunch beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 11. This is the Saturday BEFORE Mother's Day. Our Theme is "Knit Together." RSVPs are required through ticket presales. Tickets will be available for purchase in our Lobby after April 15.

Mighty Mites at Work

April is Mite Month! We make a special effort to bring in the mission money we have been saving and send it on to do its work for God. Remember to get your donations in to help pay the mission grants we voted to support at both the 2018 District Convention and the 2017 National Convention.

If you would like a container for your "mites", talk to Sharron Sheridan or Mary Martinal.

This month as you put money into your mite container, say a prayer for Lutheran Special Education Ministries.

Reading, writing, and numbers and math -- some love them, some hate them, some are apathetic. In Michigan 13% of school-age youth are classified as special needs and need special attention to learn. For Christians, this can contribute to faith challenges -- especially if we don't tailor the wonderful message God has given us to their needs.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries began work in 1873, working with orphans who were deaf. Today, the organization reaches out to address many barriers beyond hearing, and extends outside of Michigan as far as Minnesota, west as far as California, and south as far as Florida and Arizona. Resources are available for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School programs and day schools to address conditions such as dyslexia as well as to provide for gifted students. The grant of \$25,000 from the LWML-Michigan District will fund five new programs for classroom assistance. What an opportunity!

Prayer: Dear Lord, please bless our mite offerings that support this grant that they may help reach out to those with special needs needing to learn about You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Alleluia!

April Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Justin Herter	4
Judy Parros	9
Sue Howard	11
Penny Filber	15
Mary Martinal	15
Donna Hill	19
Harmonie Roman	19
Michelle Wetzel	22
John Parros	23
Pastor Paul Herter	25
Janice Powers	27

Baptismal Anniversaries

Dianne Gentz	8
Tyler Moyer	14
Mike Posten	20
Sue Muck	21
Bob Wachter	21
Les Howard	22
Judy Kuntz	23
Mike Vergiels	23
Dene Minnema	26

Wedding Anniversaries

Gerald & Phyllis Johnson	10
Bill & Bonnie Posten	30

Congratulations ...

...to Jerry & Phyllis Johnson, who celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on the 10th!

We Pray This Month:

For the Nations of the world for peace, healing from their troubles, and spread of the Gospel
For Our Nation –

that God would guide and protect our President and our Governor and our Mayor
that God would guide our schools, colleges, and universities to useful learning
that God would guide and protect our military wherever they are serving.

For His Church –

that God would strengthen and protect all His people who are experiencing trials, testings and/or persecution and all who are serving His Church as missionaries, pastors, teachers

For Hope –

that God would bless our 2019 Administrative Board
that God would bless and grow our Sunday School, our congregation, Youth Ministry
that God would bless our worship of Him throughout the year

For those who grieve: families of: Dorothy Studnicka; Scott Hadden; Herb Hamann; Patti Vergiels' brother-in-law; Jeff Hastings

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Myrna Sheldon	Amelia Martinal (feet)	DeLight Sieler
Helen Bendes (arthritis)	Dave & Dee Weisenfelder	Margaret Parker
Bonnie Posten (eyes, wrist)	Patti Vergiels	Maynard Howard
Ruth Lamley	Ron & Dianne Gentz	Mike Posten (leg)
Dorothy Parker	Sandy Houck	Les & Sue Howard
Tricia Moyer-Fowler	Marnella Campbell Lafferty	Sherrell Hofbauer
Mike Griffith (shoulder)	Samantha Sande (pain)	Jutta Gross
Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)	Kristie Smith (Lyme)	Jim Goetz (surgery)
Stephanie Votke (neck)	Linda Hall	Rev. William Gatz
Jaxon Stanley (not growing)	Christian Falzone	Alan Garrison
Eric Montroy (needs new liver)	Larry & Betty Bendes	Adam Bartek (dialysis)
Kimberley Balowski	Marti Hudelston	Dianne Cottrill
Casey Muck	Bill & Jeanie Landry	Cindy Bendes Carr
Jeremiah Smith (back)	David Baumgartner (cancer)	Wanda Allen (cancer)
Sue Johnson (cancer)	Dale Chase (cancer)	Andrew Frank (cancer)
Gregg Hopkins (cancer)	Marilyn McKay (cancer)	Steve McRobert (cancer)
Kenny Cable (cancer)	Mark Garcia (cancer)	Sherry Williams (cancer)
George MacBlaine (cancer)	Jim Barancin (cancer)	Christie Lemley (cancer)
Gregg Woods (cancer)	Florence Hagerman (cancer)	Sally Sharp (hospice)

Contact the Church Office. 263-4317 or honelems@tc3net.com. with new requests and/or updates.

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm Lent V	4 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir	5	6 9am Spring Rally @ Hope
7 5 th Sunday in Lent 8:30am Classic Praise [C] 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song 12:30pm Youth Group	8 6:30pm Hope Women	9 6:30pm Elders	10 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm Lent VI	11 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir	12	13 Logan Party
14 Palm Sunday 8:30am Classic Praise 10am Education Hour 11:00am New Song [C] 4pm Prayer Time	15 Holy Monday 4:30pm Prayer Stations	16 Holy Tues. 4:30pm Prayer Stations	17 Holy Wed. 10am Ladies Study 4:30pm Prayer Stations	18 Maundy Thurs. 4:30pm Prayer Stations 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday [C]	19 Good Fri. 1:00 & 6:30 pm Good Friday 4:30pm Prayer Stations	20 Holy Sat.
21 Easter Sunday 7:00am Classic Praise [C] 8:30am Easter Breakfast 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song [C]	22 6pm Admin. Bd Newsletter Deadline	23	24 10am Ladies Study	25 8am – 8pm Rummage Sale	26 9am – 4pm Sale	27 6pm Karaoke
28 2 nd Sunday of Easter 8:30am Classic Praise 10am Education Hour 11:00am New Song [C] 4:30pm Marr. Enrichment	29	30			[C] = Communion	

April 2019 Servant Schedule

USHERS: 8:30 a.m. Apr.: Mike Vergiels, Jim Logan, Jeremy Filber, Judy Theung
11:00 a.m. Apr. 7 & 21: Rick Wetzel, Jon Henzi, Tom Sande
11:00 a.m. Apr. 14 & 28: Otto Bilkey, James P. Sheridan

Apr. 3	6:30 p.m.	READER:
Apr. 7	8:30 a.m.	ELDER: John Butler; ELDER ASS'T: Jerry Johnson; LITURGY ASS'T: Jim Logan; READER: Sue Muck;
	11:00 a.m.	COMMUNION: Jerry & Phyllis Johnson READERS: Youth
Apr. 10	6:30 p.m.	READER:
Apr. 14	8:30 a.m.	ELDER: Bill Kohn; LITURGY ASS'T: Bill Kohn; READER: Judy Parros;
	11:00 a.m.	ELDER: Jim Logan; ELDER ASS'T: Otto Bilkey; READERS: Carol Herter, Dale Martinal; COMMUNION: the Sande Family
Apr. 18	6:30 p.m.	ELDER: John Butler; ELDER ASS'T: Joe Cortez; READER: John Butler; COMMUNION: Martinals
Apr. 19	1:00 p.m.	READER: Bill Kohn;
	6:30 p.m.	READER: Rick Wetzel
Apr. 21	7:00 a.m.	ELDER: Bill Kohn; ELDER ASS'T: Hans Jacobsson; LITURGY ASS'T: John Butler; READER: Judy Theung;
	11:00 a.m.	COMMUNION: Hans & Arleen Jacobsson ELDER: Rick Wetzel; ELDER ASS'T: Otto Bilkey; READERS: Envoy; COMMUNION: Martinals
Apr. 28	8:30 a.m.	ELDER: John Butler; LITURGY ASS'T: Jerry Johnson; READER: Hilda Cortez
	11:00 a.m.	ELDER: Rick Wetzel; ELDER ASS'T: Dale Martinal; READERS: Helen Bendes, Rick Wetzel; COMMUNION: Kathy Beekel