



5625 W. US Hwy. 223  
Adrian, MI 49221  
(517) 263-4317  
www.hopeadrian.org  
E-mail: hopecms@tc3net.com

## The Messenger

April  
2020

**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

# Jesus' Resurrection is Fact

Dearly Ones for Whom Christ Jesus died and rose again!

You've no doubt heard President Trump refer to various media reports as "Fake News." As I listen to some reporting following the live interviews I personally heard, I understand how easily the media follows its principle of "if it burns, it earns" and "if it bleeds, it leads." I can remember my Dad complaining even years ago about how the newspaper inserted opinions into actual news items. Now, (in my opinion) it's everyday practice!

You know, "fake news" is nothing new. I refer you to Matthew 28 which tells of the Resurrection of our LORD Jesus: "The guards were so afraid of [*the angel who rolled away the stone from Jesus' tomb*] that they shook and became like dead men. [*Then...*] some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day."

Throughout history, money has influenced what people say and do with the truth – nothing new here. "Everybody has their 'price,'" we are told. The (probably 16 trained Roman) soldiers charged with guarding Jesus' tomb went from fear of the angel to fear for their lives since they would've been executed if they had actually let the (eleven hiding, frightened) disciples overpower them, roll away the stone and steal Jesus' body – YEAH, RIGHT! Now there's some real "fake news!"

We believers know better, but, at times, we are deceived or tricked by lies, too. Saul, who later became Paul the Apostle, resisted the truth of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ until the Lord Jesus knocked him off his donkey onto his donkey! Later, Paul would write to the Corinthians: "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins... But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead!" (1 Corinthians 15)

Faith in the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ for our salvation is our reason for Celebration! Happy Easter!

God's upholding Presence be with us all!

Pastor Paul

*P.S. Isn't there an old saying about the month of March: "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb?" ("Because March straddles winter and spring in the northern hemisphere, it tends to have very harsh, unpleasant weather in the beginning but typically has milder, more palatable*

*Continued on page 2, column 2*

## Stewardship Corner

### In God's Hands, No Gift is Insignificant

In the Gospel of John, we read that Jesus and His disciples were in the midst of a very large crowd of people. It was late in the day, and the people were getting hungry. Obviously, in Jesus' time, there was no fast-food franchise on every street corner that we have today, so we can understand how the disciples saw the situation as hopeless. With their limited resources, they were not going to be able to feed so many people. The only disciple who seemed to see a little glimmer of hope was Andrew. He found a little boy with two fish and five crackers. Andrew said to Jesus, "*There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?*" (John 6:9). Of course, Andrew knew that the food that the boy had would not be enough to feed five thousand men and very likely thousands more counting women and children. However, Andrew had seen Jesus perform miracles so he must have had an idea that nothing was impossible with Jesus. It seems that Andrew may have hoped that Jesus could use the small amount of food and do something with it.

After Jesus gave thanks, He had His disciples distribute the fish and bread until all the people were filled. After everyone had finished eating, the disciples gathered up 12 baskets of leftovers. What a wonderful and amazing story! To think that Jesus used the small gift of food from the boy, and, with His power, accomplished so much with it. It tells us that no gift is insignificant in His hands.

At another time, Jesus showed again that there was no gift that was insignificant. "*Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and He saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And He said, 'Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, and she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on'*" (Luke 21:1-4). From our human perspective, we would perceive that the larger gifts were most important. However, Jesus saw that the poor widow gave all that she had out of love in her heart. To Him, her gift was much greater than the gifts from the rich people who just gave a token amount from their abundance. God is more interested in the heart of the giver than the size of the gift. The true measure of the gift is the motive for the gift. God uses small and insignificant gifts and multiples them to accomplish many wonderful things.

God could have fed the five thousand without the boy's fish and bread, and He can accomplish His purposes without our gifts, but He wants to work through you and me to do His work.

### Pastor's Article, cont.

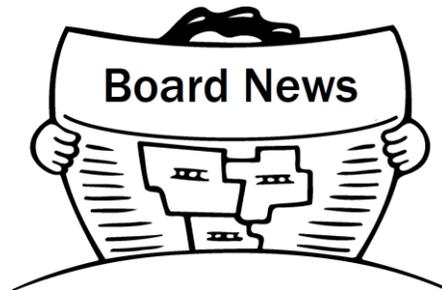
weather by the end.") I always thought that saying began with a "When." Anyway, in my experience, March has come in like a lamb and gone out like a lamb; likewise lion and lion. This year, economically at least, we were more like a lion March 1 and more like a lamb at the end. The economic story in our country has been largely derailed from being a lion to that of a lamb by a dangerous virus known as COVID 19. It is a variation of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), apparently. Let us all continue to implore our gracious LORD in constant prayer for a swift end to this plague; for protection of medical personnel that they may serve their communities with strength, patience, and wisdom; for healing and recovering of those who are sick;

#### February 2020 Stewardship Summary

Average Church Attendance: 92

Average Holy Communion Attendance: 39

Education Hour - Adults & Youth: 28; Confirmation & Elementary: 7.5



The Administrative Board of Hope met Monday, March 31, 2020, via ZOOM to discuss the business of the congregation during this COVID 19 pandemic.

The Board, in compliance with Gov. Whitmer's executive order, listed Hope's essential personnel: Pastor Paul, Becky Martinal, Mary Martinal, Paul Theung or Jon Henzi. Also listed are Carol Herter, our Elders and Board members. These persons have been so notified.

The Board developed a protocol for keeping personnel healthy. Hands are to be sanitized upon entry and before leaving the building. Surfaces touched are to be sanitized by the person touching them. No more than ten (10) people are allowed in the church at one time. Physical distancing of six (6) feet will be maintained. We are encouraged not to come into the building if it is not absolutely necessary.

The Board also authorized Becky to set up the option of electronic giving through Michigan's Church Extension Fund, called "Excel in Giving." Call the Office if interested in this option.

## Rummage Sale



## Sale planned for April 23-24 has been postponed.

While it might be Spring Cleaning Time – and we certainly have time enough to do it – we must ask that you **HOLD ON TO** the items you might bring in to our annual

Spring Rummage Sale. Because of the pandemic and the advice to stay home, we must postpone our Sale. We will reschedule when it is safe to do so.

REMEMBER as you are sorting items, we can only use clean spring/summer items in good repair to sell at this annual fund raiser. Hold on to fall/winter items for our annual Fall Rummage Sale.

Money raised at the Sale, when it is held, will be used for ministries that Hope supports. You can bring in your items starting now.

Call Sharron with any questions. Her home number is 517-403-0065.

## Alleluias Return!

**A**lleluia! He is Risen!

**L**et the jolly anthems rise,

**L**et the bells ring out the message

**E**aster Sunday signifies.

**L**et each heart be filled with gladness,

**U**nto Him let praises soar ... for

**I**n truth, He is our Savior

**A**nd He lives forevermore!

## A Prayer for Eastertide

Dear Father, You know that we're aware what history's calendar holds when we reach the Lenten season. And yet, each year, we grieve for His death, then exalt with the good news – as if for the first time. We have supped at Your table. We have knelt at the cross. We have shared the amazement of the empty tomb, have joined the Hallelujah Chorus.

Lord, don't let us fall from this blessed awareness of Your infinite love. Keep us faithful; keep us caring. Help us to realize that our lives, ransomed so dearly, are totally Yours. Fill these lives, we pray, with a sharpened alertness to the enduring things – to the constant evidence of the grace wherein we live. Move us to love others as You love them – and us. Amen.

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Due to the executive orders to shelter in place due to the covid-19 pandemic, Hope's Holy Week services will be live-streamed instead of being celebrated together.

We thank Becky Martinal and Judy Theung for working together to live stream our services by way of Facebook and Web-ex.

Maundy Thursday, April 9 – **6:30 p.m.**

Good Friday, April 10 -  
Lessons & Hymns **1:00 p.m.**  
One Worship **6:30 p.m.**

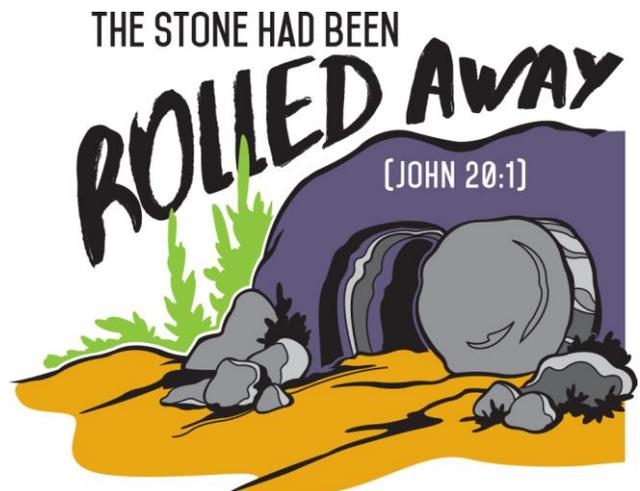


*Christ is Risen!*

Easter Worship

**Easter Sunday, April 12 -  
ONE Worship - 10:00 a.m.**

Easter flowers will still adorn our altar area, thanks to all who ordered flowers and to Carol Herter for arranging them so well. As of right now, those who want to enjoy their purchased flowers at home are to call 263-4317 after the service ends and make an appointment to pick them up. Carol will be at church for about an hour after service. Your flowers will be placed outside by the main front doors for you. (Mary will do the same if you want to wait a day or two to get your flowers. Call first.)



## Women of Hope!

Hope Women planned to meet April 6 at 5:00 p.m. at church to enjoy a meal and watch the movie, *Little Women*. This event will be rescheduled sometime after we are allowed to meet together in groups again.

Keep your sisters in the faith in your prayers.

## Irish Hills Zone Rally April 18 - Cancelled

The Irish Hills Zone Spring Rally was to have been held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Jackson, MI, **Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 9:30 a.m. -- registration and coffee and goodies begins at 9:00 a.m. -- with lunch at 12:00. We would have learned about the Jackson ministry SOAR.

This event, also, will be rescheduled after the stay-at-home orders have been lifted.

## 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. **This is especially important during this challenging time. Please help out as you can.**

Contact the local organization of your choice and ask how to support them with a donation. They have websites and the ability to accept monetary donations online.

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

Jesus lives! And I am sure  
Neither life nor death shall sever  
Me from Him. I shall endure  
In His love, through death, forever.  
God will be my sure defense:  
This shall be my confidence.

Words by Christian F. Gellert. 1715-69; translated by Frances E. Cox, 1812-97, alt. Public Domain

## Mother/Daughter Event May 9

Our annual Mother/Daughter event this year will be a brunch / lunch beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 9. This is the Saturday BEFORE Mother's Day. Our Theme is "Daughters of the King." RSVPs are required through ticket presales.

As with all events, this is subject to change. We will keep you informed.

We will let you know how you can let us know you are coming if the event can be held as currently scheduled.

## Mighty Mites at Work

April is Mite Month! We usually make a special effort to bring in the mission money we have been saving and send it on to do its work for God. However, because of the covid-19 pandemic, we must ask you to continue saving your "mites" until we can meet together again! OR, you can count your "mites" and write a check – made out to Hope Women in Mission – and mail to the church. Any "mite" money received will be sent on at the end of April.

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 funded 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.

# April Celebrations

## Happy Birthday

Justin Herter	April 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	April 8
Tyler Moyer	14
Sue Muck	21
Bob Wachter	21
Les Howard	22
Judy Kuntz	23
Mike Vergiels	23
Dene Minnema	26

## Wedding Anniversaries

Gerald & Phyllis Johnson	10
Kevin & Amy Giroux	20
Bill & Bonnie Posten	30

## Congratulations ...

....to Bill & Bonnie Posten, on their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary;  
 ....to Kevin & Amy Giroux, on their 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary!

## We Pray This Month:

For the Nations of the world for peace, healing from their troubles, and spread of the Gospel;  
 that God would heal the sick and bring an end to the pandemic

For Our Nation –

that God would guide and protect our President and our Governor and our Mayor  
 that God would guide and protect all medical personnel and first responders  
 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 2020 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: DeLight Sieler Sandy Houck, Luella Goetz, Bob Stevenson,  
 James Hagen

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Myrna Sheldon	Ron & Dianne Gentz	David & Kathy Brevoort
Helen Bendes (arthritis)	Dave & Dee Weisenfelder	Margaret Parker
Dorothy Parker	Tricia Moyer-Fowler	Maynard Howard
Les & Sue Howard	Chuck & Ruth Lamley-Presley	Patti Vergiels (shoulder)
Sue Muck	Phyllis Johnson (back)	Eleanor Schippers
George MacBlaine (surgery)	Jim & Diana Gulliksen	Jim Hill (Parkinson's)
Sue Johnson	Denver Brown (accident)	Verna Garsey
Kristie Smith (eye issues)	Del Nabb (fibrosis)	Jada Korsman
Marti Hudelston	John Parlier	Karl Kellk
Jon Willett (lung transplant)	Ernie Henzi (hospice)	Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)
Micheal Thiel	Larry & Betty Bendes	Adam Bartek (dialysis)
Bill & Jeanie Landry	Alan Garrison	Shannon (cancer)
Jeremy Gerloff (cancer)	Mark Case (cancer)	Brenda Kafer (cancer)
L. J. Jones (cancer)	Dale Chase (cancer)	Andrew Frank (cancer)
Florence Hagerman (cancer)	David Baumgartner (cancer)	Steve McRobert (cancer)
Bob Gage (cancer)	Mark Garcia (cancer)	Doug Williams (cancer)
Joanne Sohl (cancer)	Jim Barancin (cancer)	Tim Parros (cancer)
Gregg Woods (cancer)	Jerry Strayer (cancer)	Tom Salbut (cancer)

Contact the Church Office, 263-4317 or [hopelcms@tc3net.com](mailto:hopelcms@tc3net.com), with new requests and/or updates.



# April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Thank you</b> for continuing to mail your support of Hope to the church until we can gather together again! Pray that will be soon!			1 <b>6:30pm Lent VI</b> <b>(live streamed)</b>	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday 10:00am One Worship (live streamed)	6 Holy Monday 6:30pm Elders (via ZOOM)	7 Holy Tues.	8 Holy Wed.	9 Maundy Thurs. <b>6:30 pm Maundy Thursday</b> <b>(live streamed)</b>	10 Good Fri. <b>1:00 &amp; 6:30 pm Good Friday</b> <b>(live streamed)</b>	11 Holy Sat.
12 Easter Sunday 10:00am One Worship (live streamed)	13 6:30pm Admin. Bd <b>(via ZOOM)</b>	14	15	16 9:30am Home School Group	17	18 9:00am Zone Rally @ Trinity, Jackson – to be rescheduled
19 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter 10:00am One Worship (live streamed)	20 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	21	22	23 8am – 8pm Rummage Sale - postponed	24 9am – 4pm Sale - postponed	25
26 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter 10:00am One Worship (live streamed)	27 6:30pm Admin. Bd <b>(via ZOOM)</b>	28	29	30		

## April 2020 Servant Schedule

Because of the “stay-at-home” order issued by Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, all our services in April will be live-streamed. Only those who need to be in the building to conduct and to broadcast the services will be in the building. Bulletins will be emailed or delivered prior to services. Instructions on how to receive the live-streamed services will be included with the bulletin.

**Apr. 1**      **6:30 p.m.**    **READER:** John Butler

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**Apr. 5**      10:00 a.m.    **ELDER:** Bill Kohn

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**Apr. 9**      **6:30 p.m.**    **ELDER:** John Butler

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**Apr. 10**     **1:00 p.m.**  
**6:30 p.m.**    **ELDER:** Bill Kohn

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**Apr. 12**     10:00 a.m.    **ELDER:** Jim Logan

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**Apr. 19**     10:00 a.m.    **ELDER:** Rick Wetzel

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**Apr. 26**     10:00 a.m.    **ELDER:** John Butler

# Alleluia!