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## The Messenger

April  
2021

### Pastor

The Rev. Paul Herter

### Youth/Family Life

Becky Martinal, DCE

### Worship

Sundays

9:00 (masks req.) –

Classic Praise

10:30 a.m. (masks opt.) –

New Song

### Bible Study

Sundays

Suspended for now

Mondays – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesdays – 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays – 6:30 p.m.

## Fear Not! Jesus is Risen!

Dear Ones in our Risen Lord and Savior,

“On Christ, the Solid Rock, we stand, ALL other ground is sinking/shifting sand!”

If we haven’t learned anything else in the last year, I pray that we always remember this.

So, back to the question: Have we learned anything since March 2020 and the national shutdown/quarantine imposed on our Country in order to “flatten the curve” of hospitalizations due to the coronavirus? I’m sure that we have (whether “the media” cares to report it is another story!)

One thing that we mostly haven’t learned is not to be so fearful. So fearful that we don’t leave our homes unless, in our minds, it’s “absolutely necessary.” So fearful that we don’t associate in person with even close friends and family. So fearful that we fail to follow through on health concerns that have nothing to do with COVID 19. So fearful that we spread our own fears around so that even when people are starting to calm down and think rationally again, they are made afraid for their health or lives once again. The big temptation seems to be making an idol out of our health.

The virus, and the fear of infection, along with various government lockdowns and general confusion about these things has devastated the church community. Some congregations have yet to resume any in-person services! Trying to achieve a balance between respect for government authorities and the Divine command to gather together as Christians for worship, fellowship and service, has been a tremendous challenge.

I am encouraged and gratified as your Pastor to see more members and guests returning to in-person worship and Holy Communion at Hope. Although there are a number of members who have yet to return (some have been absent a whole year since March), the vast majority of our people at Hope have been back!

As I write this, Holy Week is coming up and we hope to see more of our members return, at least for Easter services celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord! (As we have done since last September, Hope continues to offer masked and mask optional services, liturgy and blended service formats, weekly Holy Communion, live streaming on site via our Fellowship Hall as well as through Facebook, “socially distanced” seating and frequent sanitizing.)

As you have heard mentioned before, God’s Word has enough admonition for us to “Fear Not” for every day of the year! The one reference I repeat now is from the Apostle Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy (1:7) – **“For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”**

Coming up on the weekend of April 18<sup>th</sup>, Lutherans and many other Christians will observe the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the reformer Martin Luther’s appearance before the Emperor and other political and religious authorities at the meeting known as the Diet of Worms in Germany. This is the famous historical moment of Luther’s “Here I Stand” response to the Pope and religious authorities who want him killed as a heretic and the Holy Roman Emperor who wants him arrested and executed as a rebel. (And you thought YOU had stress in your life!)

So, dear ones, may God continue to move us from ‘Fear’ to ‘Fear Not’ and help us remain faithful to our Lord and His abiding Word!

“On Christ, the Solid Rock, we stand, ALL other ground is sinking/shifting sand!”

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Paul

## Stewardship Corner

### Come and See

On His way to Galilee, Jesus called Philip to be one of His 12 disciples. After receiving Jesus' call, Philip, pleased to be a disciple, told his friend, Nathanael, that he had found Jesus of Nazareth, the person whom Moses and all the prophets had foretold in the Old Testament. Nathaniel responded, "*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*" (John 1:46). Philip responded, "*Come and see.*" Jesus calls us to be like Philip and to say to our families, co-workers, neighbors, friends, and all people, "*Come and see.*" As God's people, we have been given a wonderful privilege and a responsibility to be the hands, feet, and mouth for Jesus. We are His instruments through whom He works so others can hear the Good News of the Gospel.

In our conversations, we could use the words "come and see" in many different ways. When we acquire new furniture, a dress, or a car, we may say, "Come and see." How much more important it is that we ask others to "come and see" Jesus as He has revealed Himself to us in His Word. We have the opportunity to introduce people to Jesus Who has given the world the greatest miracle that has ever occurred. Jesus, the Son of Man, condescended to come to earth to live as one of us, to be humiliated and die for the sake of those He loves, and then to rise victoriously, the "*firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep*" (1 Corinthians 15:20). This miracle is one to be shouted from the housetops, for it is meant for all humankind. Christ has died for our sins and risen again so that we might live forever with Him. We are called to go and invite people to "come and see" Who Jesus is and what He has done for us. We invite people, and the Holy Spirit does the rest.

So why are we often hesitant to invite people to "come and see" Jesus? Do we fear we'll be rejected? That we won't have the answers to questions we're asked? That we'll look foolish? All these things may happen but that's God's business. Not everybody is going to want what we have to offer, but many do. Our task is to invite, "Come and see." If we love God, we will love His people (1 John 4:20), and, if we love people, we will be compelled to witness. Our love will overcome our discomfort. Our compassion will overcome our inhibitions.

We should all be encouraged to pray that the Holy Spirit will make us aware of the opportunities He lays before us, the people He places in our lives—people we know and sometimes complete strangers. As Philip invited his friend, let us invite all who will listen, "Come and see." The investment of our time and effort will be an investment that pays eternal dividends.

## Eastertide

Again that time of year has come,  
Springtime combined with Eastertide.  
Blossoms, raindrops, bees that hum,  
And nail-scarred hands and sword-pierced side.

A cup of win and crust of bread  
Reminding us of Him Who gave  
All that He had, and as He died  
Was buried in a borrowed grave.

And then triumphant Easter morn,  
He rose to fling aside His shroud,  
For death is vanquished clean away  
And Hallelujahs ring aloud!

## A Easter Prayer

Ne'er tomb can hold  
Nor grave clothes bind Thee,  
Resurrected Son of Man;  
In triumph stand, yon Mary's Gardener,  
Scorning death to rise again.

Risen anew this Easter morning  
Hope, Thou Hope,  
Stretch forth Thy Hand,  
And touch faint, doubting hearts once more,  
Thou resurrected Son of Man!

by Catherine Rood

## 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

## CROSS AND GLORY

Everyone knows the opening line of the familiar Palm Sunday hymn:

*All glory, laud, and honor  
to You, Redeemer, King.*

That word “glory” is an important word in the Christian’s vocabulary. Occurring some 300 times in the Scriptures, it provides a fitting description of God’s majesty and of the honor and praise that are due Him.

In our hymnals, the word “glory” is also frequently used (some 200 times). Examples that come to mind might include:

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing  
Glory Be to God the Father  
Angels from the Realms of Glory*

It’s not surprising that this little word should find such extensive use. After all, hymns are one of the best vehicles for the people of God to join their voices in praising their Maker and Redeemer.

If you look far enough, however, you begin to see that descriptions of God’s glory are not limited only to awe-inspiring moments like the appearance of the angelic choir over the fields of Bethlehem, the transfiguration on the mountaintop, or the earth-quaking resurrection of our Lord. Consider hymn texts like these:

*Glory be to Jesus Who in bitter pains  
In the cross of Christ I glory  
When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died.*

What are we to make of these seemingly conflicting uses of the word glory?

Once while on Mount Sinai, Moses made this daring request of God: “Show me Your glory.” God’s response was equally direct: “You cannot see My face, for no one may see Me and live.” God did, however, partially grant Moses’ request: He placed Moses in the cleft of the rock and covered him as His glory passed by. Then He allowed Moses to see His “back side” (Exodus 33:18-23).

Though God’s glory and majesty are beyond our comprehension, He has chosen to reveal that glory in ways that we can grasp. It’s not the kind of glory, however, that we might expect. Rather, it is precisely in the suffering and death of His beloved Son that the Father reveals His glory in all of its fullness.

In his popular hymn, “Thy Strong Word,” Martin Franzmann reminds us how it is at the cross that God’s true glory breaks loose:

*From the cross Thy wisdom shining  
Breaketh forth in conqu’ring might;  
From the cross forever beameth  
All Thy bright redeeming light.*  
(Lutheran Worship hymn 328, st. 4)

Cross and glory do belong together, for it is in the cross of Christ that our salvation has been won. God knows no greater glory than to be Himself, namely, gracious and loving and forgiving.

*Inscribed upon the cross we see  
In shining letters, “God is love.”  
He bears our sins upon the tree;  
He brings us mercy from above.*  
(Lutheran Worship hymn 118, st. 2)

[Prepared by the LCMS Commission on Worship. Permission is granted to reprint for congregational use.]

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday, April 18 – **6:30 p.m.**  
*Communion will be celebrated*  
*[Masks required in sanctuary]*

Good Friday, April 29 - **1:00 p.m.**  
Classic Praise  
*[Masks required in sanctuary]*  
New Song **6:30 p.m.**  
*[Masks optional in sanctuary]*

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



### Christ is Risen!

Easter Worship

**Easter Sunday, April 4 -**  
(All Masks) Classic Praise - **9:00 a.m.**  
(Masks Opt.) New Song - **10:30 a.m.**

Communion celebrated at BOTH SERVICES

Easter flowers will adorn our altar area, thanks to all who ordered flowers and to Carol Herter for arranging them so well. Your flowers will be available for pick up after the 10:30 a.m. service. If you cannot pick up your flowers on Easter Sunday, please let the Church Office know.

## Alleluias Return!

## Irish Hills Zone Rally April 24

The Irish Hills Zone Spring Rally *will be held* at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, MI, **Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 9:30 a.m. -- registration and coffee and goodies begins at 9:00 a.m.

Please let Sharron or Mary know that you are joining us for this Rally!

## Mother/Daughter Event

Will there be a Mother/Daughter Event this year? Perhaps. Perhaps not. Keep watching and listening!

## 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.



## Spring Sale April 29-30

It is Spring Cleaning Time – and we certainly still have time enough to do it – so go through your closets and bureaus and basements and garages and **BRING IN** items for our annual Spring

Rummage Sale after Easter. Times are 8am – 8pm on Thursday and 9am – 4pm on Friday.

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 will be used for ministries that Hope supports.

Call Sharron with any questions, before you drop off items for sale, and to volunteer to help her set up and run the Sale. Her home number is 517-403-0065.

*Serve the Lord with Gladness!*

## 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. You may drop off your mites during Mary's office hours, or place on her desk Sunday mornings, 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 POBLO International Ministries.

People Of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) is called to evangelize and make disciples of all nations, which includes women making other women disciples, and specifically LCMS Christian women/churches to be trained to reach Hindu, Sikh, and Buddhist women with the Gospel message. In 2019 there were 137,004 Hindu, Sikh, and Buddhist women in Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne counties, and the number is growing. These women are receptive to the Gospel message.

American Christian women have the heart to reach out to these women, but they need training and opportunities. POBLO Missionary Pinky Dhuna needs American Christian women to come alongside her to share the Gospel message and carry the message of love, care, and hope to these women

The LWML-Michigan District, meeting virtually in July 2020, granted the sum of \$25,000.00 to enable LCMS women to reach Hindu, Sikh, and Buddhist women with the Gospel message in Dearborn, Michigan, and beyond.



LWML National Convention

Lexington, Kentucky

June 24-27, 2021

We're meeting in Lexington!  
Michigan District is a host district.  
We can still use workers!  
Talk to Mary or Sharron.

# April Celebrations

## Happy Birthday

Justin Herter	April 4
Judy Parros	9
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

Tyler Moyer	April 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



### 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 2021 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: family of: Eleanor Schippers

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Myrna Sheldon	Dorothy Parker	Maynard Howard
Margaret Parker	Dave & Dee Weisenfelder	Chuck & Ruth Presley
Tricia Moyer-Fowler	Marcia Albain (headaches)	Patti Vergiels
Ron Gentz (shoulder)	Arleen Jacobsson (knee)	Bob Wachter
Marnella Lafferty (thumb)	Stephanie Butler	Mary Jane Hull
Brad Housman (pain)	Richard Sande	Kristie Smith (eye issues)
Marti Hudelston	Jada Korsman	Mike Weisenfelder
Jon Willett (lung transplant)	John Parlier	Micheal Thiel
Bob Beagle	Lance Rowton (heart)	Gloria Putten
Bill & Jeanie Landry	Larry Bendes	Alan Garrison
Casey Muck (concussion)	Norma Fidler	Verna Garsey
Melissa Morton (stroke)	Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)	Lisa Cable (cancer)
Allison Oliver (cancer)	Tammi McCarley (cancer)	Fred Langley (cancer)
Brenda Kafer (cancer)	Doug Thumm (cancer)	Gregg Woods (cancer)
L. J. Jones (cancer)	Dale Chase (cancer)	Andrew Frank (cancer)
Shannon (cancer)	David Baumgartner (cancer)	Kelsey (cancer)
Bob Gage (cancer)	Mark Garcia (cancer)	Doug Williams (cancer)
Jim Coy (cancer)	Jim Barancin (cancer)	Tim Parros (cancer)

Contact the Church Office, 263-4317 or [hopelcms@tc3net.com](mailto:hopelcms@tc3net.com), with new requests and/or updates. These will be printed in the weekly bulletin & sent by email to those with email addresses on file in the office.

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# April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Thank you</b> for continuing to mail your support of Hope to the church until we ALL can gather together again! Pray that will be soon!				1 Maundy Thurs. <b>6:30 pm Maundy Thursday [C]</b> (masks required)	2 Good Fri. <b>1:00pm Good Friday (masked)</b> <b>6:30 pm Good Friday (optional)</b>	3
4 Easter Sunday 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional)	5 <b>6:30pm Ladies Bible Study</b>	6 <b>9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.</b>	7	8 9:30am Home School Group	9	10
11 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) <b>3:30pm Confirmation</b>	12 <b>6:30pm Ladies Bible Study</b>	13 <b>9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.</b>	14	15 9:30am Home School Group	16	17
18 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) <b>3:30pm Confirmation</b>	19 <b>6:30pm Ladies Bible Study</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	20 <b>9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.</b> 6:30pm Admin. Bd	21	22 9:30am Home School Group	23	24
25 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) <b>3:30pm Confirmation</b>	26 <b>6:30pm Ladies Bible Study</b>	27 <b>9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.</b> 6:30pm Elders	28	29 8am – 8pm Rummage Sale -	30 9am – 4pm Sale	

## April 2021 Servant Schedule

<b>Apr. 1</b>	6:30 p.m.	ELDER: John Butler
<b>Apr. 2</b>	1:00 p.m.	ELDER: Bill Kohn
	6:30 p.m.	ELDER: Rick Wetzel;
<b>Apr. 4</b>	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Jim Logan
	10:30 a.m.	ELDER: Bill Kohn; READERS: envoy; Bill Kohn
<b>Apr. 11</b>	9:00 a.m..	ELDER: John Butler
	10:30 a.m	ELDER: Bill Kohn; READERS: Jennifer Sande, Bill Kohn
<b>Apr. 18</b>	9:00 a.m..	ELDER: John Butler
	10:30 a.m.	ELDER: Jim Logan; READERS: Judy Theung, Jim Logan
<b>Apr. 25</b>	9:00 a.m..	ELDER: Bill Kohn;
	10:30 a.m.	ELDER: Rick Wetzel; READERS: Carol Herter, Rick Wetzel

# Alleluia!