



5625 W. US Hwy. 223
Mail to: P. O. Box 232
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-4317
www.hopeadrian.org
E-mail: hopecms@tc3net.com

The Messenger

April
2024

Pastor
The Rev. Paul Herter

Youth/Family Life
Becky Martinal, DCE

Worship
Sundays
9:00 a.m.

Bible Study
Sundays
10:30 a.m.

Mondays – 6:30 p.m.
Tuesdays – 9:30 a.m.
Wednesdays - 6:30 p.m.

Jesus is Risen! Tell All!

Dear Ones in Christ Jesus,

“Do you remember those ‘Coexist’ bumper stickers? They were everywhere 10 or 15 years ago. No longer. Like *tolerance*, coexistence was never the plan. The term *liberal* no longer applies to the Leftist movement. Liberty, freedom, is not their goal. The goal is nothing short of the eradication of Christianity, and its radical love for human life, marriage, family, and the rights of parents to teach their children.

“You’ve no doubt heard of Bishop Johanna Pohjola of Finland. He, along with minister Paivi Raasanen, despite their initial court victory, continue to be prosecuted by the Finnish government for the **illegal teaching that marriage is between one man and one woman.** (*Emphasis mine*) Their attorney, international barrister Paul Coleman of Alliance Defending Freedom International, recently wrote about another horrific case happening in England. Last November (2022), Isabel Vaughan-Spruce was arrested and charged with praying while inside a censorship zone outside a facility that murders children (i.e., an abortion clinic). The kicker is that she wasn’t praying out loud. She was praying silently. Which means that she is being put on trial not for acting or speaking, but merely thinking.

“Coexistence and tolerance are gone ... World power issues its dogmas, which are both edicts and ‘that which is considered good,’ ‘the correct view,’ and normative. Government and corporate power, working hand in glove, send forth the dogmas of homosexuality, transgenderism, and the abolition of human nature and freedom. The dogmas of world power once drove Joseph to Bethlehem to be taxed, and demanded a myriad of holy martyrs offer their pinch of incense (to the Emperor as god). Now these dogmas claim power to drive someone from their employment if they will not administer abortifacients, take ‘the jab,’ or bake the cake. In this intolerant state religion, we (Christians) are the heretics who reject the dogmas of the contemporary Caesars Augusti – the exalted ones.

“The astounding Good News of Luke (chapter 2), however – and this most certainly is the ‘way forward,’ even if it is not as simple as a technique or quick-and-dirty tip – is that the dogmas of world power sets in motion the Divine Plan of the Incarnation, and establishes right under Herod’s nose, and soon enough the Emperor’s, a profoundly different dogma. This dogma is based not on the threats of an Imperial Army, but the song of peace ringing out from the heavens, and confirmed in the covenant of blood God Himself spills for the life of the world. That Good News is what ‘the Left’ is determined to silence. We must prepare for an increasingly authoritarian federal government.

“The Radical Left has captured academia, journalism, and the most professional organizations in law and medicine. Their hostility to religion found its opportunity for action in the public health scare begun about [four] years ago. Their draconian restrictions revealed a militant authoritarian mindset, resulting in the forced closure of many of our churches ...

“Our path forward is also one of fidelity. That means speaking the truth, always with love, even when it is unpopular. Speaking the truth today about the assaults on human nature can draw friendly fire from fellow Christians, who say we are more interested in fighting culture wars than evangelism. That is a false dichotomy ... The culture war is happening whether we like it or not. The only question is whether we care enough to help the church’s children survive it.”

The LORD be with you and all His people! Pastor Paul

(Taken from a presentation given by the Rev. Christopher S. Esget at the LCA conference in January 2023.)

Stewardship Corner

Financial Advice with Purpose

The phrase “Financial Advice with Purpose” is a short, thoughtful slogan used by Thrivent Financial Services. What is so intriguing about this catch phrase is the word “purpose.” We are not aware as to how Thrivent defines purpose, but, in God’s Word, we discover different purposes for our money.

The first important purpose for our money is to provide for our needs and for those of our families. Money is needed for food, shelter, transportation, and clothing. In the words of the Apostle Paul, *“But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever”* (1 Timothy 5:8). We are to make every attempt to provide for our needs so we won’t be a burden to others. We express God’s love by caring and providing for our families.

A second important purpose for our money is to help those in need. In the Gospel of Matthew we read, *“For you always have the poor with you...”* (Matthew 26:11). When Paul started his ministry of sharing the Gospel, he was *“asked...to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do”* (Galatians 2:10). With joy, we should have that same attitude. God wants to use us as His channels through whom He works to support those in need. Our help goes beyond the poor to the handicapped, the sick, the widows, the orphans, etc.

Another important purpose for our money is to extend God’s kingdom. God gives us the privilege and responsibility to be participants in His mission *“to seek and to save the lost”* (Luke 19:10). Our heavenly Father does not want anyone to *“perish, but that all should reach repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9). God wants us to be active, involved, and willing participants in His plan of salvation for all people. As participants with the Lord, we become His hands, feet, and mouth. To share the Gospel with all people costs money and that money comes from us. God works through us to fund the mission and ministries that share Jesus’ love.

In order to fulfill our purposes to have the funds for our needs, to help those in need, and to spread the Gospel, we need to be money wise. We are unable to be generous if we are drowning in debt and living paycheck to paycheck. By God’s grace, we can live within our means, spend wisely, avoid debt, save diligently, insure adequately, and give freely. One of our money goals should be to live wisely to share generously. With God’s help, we will hear Him say, *“Well done, good and faithful servant”* (Matthew 25:21).

Pray for Concordia, Ann Arbor

Recently, the faculty and students at Concordia University, Ann Arbor campus received news that the university was in financial trouble. Reductions in staff and program offerings needed to be made.

Following that announcement and with the approval of the Michigan District Board of Directors, our District President, Rev. David Davis, announced An Initiative for Concordia University Ann Arbor. President Davis asked for pledges totaling \$5 million to enable the Ann Arbor campus to operate for the 2024-2025 school year. Pledges nearing \$4 million have been made as of March 20, 2024.

The Administrative Board of Hope has pledged \$2,000.00 to the Michigan District in support of Concordia University, Ann Arbor.

The District Development Office will continue to accept pledges and is currently taking pledge payments and direct gifts. They are asking that pledges be fulfilled as soon as possible, but no later than September 1, 2024. Direct gifts from those who do not have a pledge will also be accepted.

For more information and to make a pledge, go to www.michigandistrict.org and click on “Update on the Pledge for Concordia” at the bottom of the homepage.

It has been announced that no changes will be made yet and all programs will continue through the 2024-2025 school year.

Enduring Faith

Our Sunday morning Bible Classes, adult, youth, and children, continue using Concordia Publishing House’s Enduring Faith curriculum. Adults and children study the same portions of Scriptures with age-appropriate discussions and activities. We encourage families to talk about these lessons at home.

In April, we will be studying these lessons:

- April 7 – *“The Proof Room”*
(John 20:19-31)
- April 14 – *“Lost and Found Wonders”*
(Luke 15)
- April 21 – *“The Seeing Sign”*
(John 9)
- April 28 – *“A Resurrection Sign”*
(John 11:1-44)

*The Word of the Lord endures forever.
Read and study it regularly!*

Rummage Sale



Spring Sale April 18-19

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 – 7pm on Thursday and 8am – 5pm 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.

Please do not bring in electronics that do not work. This especially applies to large screen tvs as we end up paying to recycle them.

Money raised at the Sale will be used to support Hope women going to LWML convention, Hope Youth, and other congregational needs.

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.

Youth Flower Sale

Hope Youth are holding a Flower Sale to raise funds for youth events this year. Order forms will be available on Sunday, April 21. Pick-up your flowers on Saturday, May 11, between 10am-12pm, or after church on Mother's Day, May 12. Don't forget to get that hanging basket for Mother's Day! Thanks for your support of Hope Youth!



THANKS
FROM THE
HEART

Thank you to everyone for all the prayers, calls, and cards while I was sick. My son-in-law, Jerry Ragland, is in remission; his cancer is gone. Please continue to pray for my brother, Jerry Pierce. He is not doing well.

Love to all,
Barb Davis

Share Your
Talent



Talent/No Talent & Supper Sunday, April 21 Plan your "talent" & talk to Becky!

Back by popular demand! The Talent/No Talent Show and Spaghetti Supper will be held on Sunday, April 21. Supper will be served at 5:00 p.m. The Show begins at 6:30p.m. and ends by 8:00 p.m.

This date will come sooner that we think so plan your "act" now! We are hoping for lots of acts to entertain us – no talent is required! A sign-up sheet will be in the lobby soon. Becky has ideas for "acts" if you need some help. Mark the date and come! This is always a very fun evening!

Lutheran Singles Cruise!

Set sail on a spiritual adventure with our four-day Lutheran Singles Cruise, departing from Galveston on August 1st. This journey is designed for connection and fellowship, offering daily devotions, Bible studies, and opportunities to meet like-minded singles. Embrace this chance to deepen your faith, make new friends, and enjoy the beauty of the sea. Don't miss out on this unique blend of spiritual growth and social fun – book your spot today! Learn more at www.wolfmuellers.com/cruise

Fun and Games!

Join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month for some board games fun!

Join us on the 4th Thursday of each month for some euchre or other card game fun!

The fun runs from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Bring a snack, if you wish. Bring a friend, also!

For more information, talk to Becky.

Special Sunday Schedule

April 28, 2024

9:00 a.m. - Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. - United Worship with Communion

Irish Hills Zone Rally April 27

The Irish Hills Zone Spring Rally *will be held* at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Hudson, MI, *Saturday April 27*, beginning at 9:30 a.m. -- registration and coffee and goodies begins at 9:00 a.m.

We will carpool from Hope's parking lot about 8:15 a.m. Please let Kathy, Sharron, or Mary know that you are joining us for this Rally!

Hope Women April 14

Hope Women meets Sunday, April 14, at Noon to continue/conclude our study, "Strong and Courageous." We start with a light lunch. We will also firm our plans for our Mother/Daughter Event and our participation at the District Convention in June.

Mother/Daughter Event

All women and girls are invited to our annual Mother/Daughter Event! We will gather together on Saturday, May 11, at church from 11:00 a.m. to about 1:30 p.m. Our theme is "Shine Like Stars!" Participants are invited to dress up like your favorite movie star! There will be a photo area for memorable pictures! Plans are being finalized! Mark the date and plan to come. An Invitation with RSVP coming soon!

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.

We are HIS!

Serve the Lord with Gladness!

Alleluia!

Mighty Mites at Work

April is "Mite Month!" We make a special effort to bring in the loose change (and folding money) we have collected in our mite containers and send it on its way to serve the Lord. Drop your "mites" off on Mary's desk. 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 St. Paul Community Lutheran Church in Pontiac.

St. Paul Community Lutheran Church is seeking to obtain a 15-passenger van for transporting their congregants and community neighbors to and from church activities, as well as assisting their Parish Nurse in her duties, therefore meeting the people where they are with the gospel that changes lives (Matthew 28:19-20).

Many of their members and neighbors do not have reliable transportation or are elderly and need assistance to get to and from church and church-sponsored events.

As a mission church community, St. Paul does not have the ability to finance fully the cost of a 15-passenger van.

The Michigan District LWML, meeting in Frankenmuth in July 2022, granted \$25,000.00 to enable the purchase of a 15-passenger van for St. Paul Community Lutheran Church in Pontiac.

Anniversary Celebration – April 14

Jerry and Phyllis Johnson invite the congregation to join them in celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary during the Coffee Hour Fellowship Time (about 10:15 a.m.) on Sunday, April 14. They will be providing a cake and other refreshments. (Our Bible classes will start at 11:00 a.m. that morning only.)



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!

April Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Judy Parros	April 9
Mike Duncan	14
Penny Filber	15
Mary Martinal	15
Harmonie Roman	19
Michelle Wetzel	22
John Parros	23
Pastor Paul Herter	25
Eric Steinke	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

Congratulations...

...to Jerry & Phyllis Johnson on their 70th wedding anniversary on April 10!!



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; for war-besieged Christians in Ukraine & Russia

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
that God would guide the Board of Regents for Concordia, Ann Arbor & Wisconsin

For Hope –

that God would bless our 2024 Administrative Board
that God would bless and grow our Sunday School, our congregation, Youth Ministry

For those who grieve: family of:

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Tricia Moyer-Fowler	Danielle Hofbauer	Ruth Lamley (arm)
Margaret Parker	Sherrell Hofbauer	Mike & Patti Vergiels
Bob & Joann Wachter	Marcia Albain (headaches)	Hans & Arleen Jacobsson
Les Howard	Mike Griffith (eyes)	Barb Davis
Marnella Lafferty (knee)	Ryan Liske	Stephanie Butler
Mike & Patsy Broge	Mary Jane Hull	Mary Ellen Moyer
Thomas Groh	Ralph & Wanda Saylor	Ken Wrase
Keith Richardson	Rev. Daryl Etheridge	Marti Hudelston
Steve & Mike Weisenfelder	Rev. Joe Adams	Jon Willett
Kerri Gulliksen (osteoporosis)	Jeff Moyer (stroke)	Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)
Elaine Stevenson (cancer)	Jim McKinney (cancer)	Doug Thumm (cancer)
Tami McKenney (cancer)	Kent Brown (cancer)	Michael Palmiter (cancer)
Jerry Pierce (cancer)	Mike Snyder (cancer)	Kathy Sparks (cancer)
Ed Burch (cancer)	Dan Smith (cancer)	Kathy Austin (cancer)
Mary Caroline (cancer)	Lisa Cable (cancer)	Denver Parker (cancer)

We give thanks to God for our many blessings.

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

Our Prayers

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	2 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	3	4	5	6
7 2 nd Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am SS & BC 3:30 pm Confirmation 5-7pm- Hope Youth	8 6:30pm Elders	9 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	10 6:30pm Bible Study	11 1-3 Games	12	13
14 3 rd Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship [C] 10:15am Johnson Fete 11am SS & BC 3:30 pm Confirmation Noon-1:30pm HWIM	15 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	16 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr. 3:30pm Admin Bd. Mtg.	17 6:30pm Bible Study	18 8am – 7pm Rummage Sale	19 8am – 5pm Sale	20
21 4 th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am SS & BC 3:30 pm Confirmation 5-8pm- Talent/No Talent Meal & Show	22 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study Newsletter Deadline	23 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	24 6:30pm Bible Study	25 1-3 Games	26	27 9am Spring Rally @ Our Saviour, Hudson
28 5 th Sunday of Easter 9:00am SS & BC 10:30am Worship [C] 3:30 pm Confirmation	29 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	30 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.				[C] = Communion

April 2024 Servant Schedule

April 7	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Ron Gentz; READERS: Jennifer Sande, Ron Gentz; USHERS: Tom & Jacob Sande; COMMUNION: Hilda Cortez; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:
April 14	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Bill Kohn; READERS: Mike Duncan; Bill Kohn; USHERS: James P. Sheridan; COMMUNION: the Sande Family ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:
April 21	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Jim Logan; READERS: Sue Muck, Jim Logan; USHERS: John & Jay Butler; COMMUNION: Sue Muck, Sara Hackney; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:
April 28	10:30 a.m.	ELDER: John Butler; READER: Carol Herter, John Butler; USHERS: Tom & Jacob Sande; COMMUNION: Mike & Darlene Fink; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!