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The Messenger

December 2018

Pastor

The Rev. Paul Herter

Youth/Family Life

Becky Martinal, D.C.E.

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)

Celebrating Christ

Dear Members and Friends of Hope Lutheran Church,

Join us for our Advent family worship series, "God with Us." Each week will focus on a different word picture of the coming Christ found in the poetic and prophetic words of Isaiah.

The theme for Advent/Christmas this year is based on Matthew 1:23 – Immanuel, "**God with us.**"

Please read the Biblical context (Matthew 1:20-23) that follows:

"An angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph] in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). (Isaiah 7:14)

Each **Advent Event** will have three parts to which everyone is invited:

5:55 p.m. - a time for an Advent craft and conversation in the Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. - transition time featuring your requests for Advent/Christmas songs from one of our hymnals

6:45 p.m. - Family Advent Service of Worship

- November 28th: God is our Potter. (Isaiah 64:8)
- December 5th: God is our Shepherd. (Isaiah 40:11)
- December 12th: God is the Living Branch (Isaiah 11:1)
- December 19th: God is our Guide (Isaiah 2:3)

You'll want to set aside Sunday, December 16th at 4 p.m. for a time of fellowship and Christmas music with Cynthia Kaay Bennett. Christmas goodies served!

Our Children's Christmas Service will be on Sunday, December 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

By the way, we will have our fifth Sunday service schedule for both December 23rd and the 30th: Sunday School / Bible Class at 9 a.m.; joint service at 10 a.m.

Some other notes about our service times:

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve at 7 p.m.; Christmas Day at 10:30 a.m.

Have a "Mary's" Christmas: "Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19) May it be said of us, dear ones, that we pondered "the wonders of His love" in our hearts and lives!

May the Peace of Christ(mas) be yours! (And a Blessed 2019!)

Pastor Paul

Make Known the Savior

What greater mystery is there than these words of the Apostle John: *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth”* (John 1:14)? This Word Who is with God and Who is God and Who has been with God since the beginning (John 1:1-2), this Word became one of us. Born in a stable more than two thousand years ago, Jesus lived among us. We joyfully sing every Christmas, *“Joy to the world, the Lord is come.”* In His 33 years on earth, He ate and drank and slept like one of us, and He showed us His glory.

“And from His fullness, we have all received grace upon grace” (John 1:16), for this is what He came to bring. First and foremost of those blessings is the forgiveness of sins and life eternal with Him. He is *“the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!”* (John 1:29).

As we turn the pages of the Gospel of John, we come to know more about our Savior. He is: living water, the healer, the teacher, the miracle worker, the good shepherd, the raiser of the dead, the Vine, the Christ, the Son of God, the I AM.

And we are the sheep of His flock, His witnesses, the branches who cling to Him, the Vine, so that we might be sustained and empowered to serve this mighty Savior Who deigned to become one of us.

What does He ask of us, His sheep? To believe in Him, to remain in Him, to love others as He has loved us, to expect persecution for the sake of the Gospel, to trust Him so completely that He can accomplish through us even greater things (John 14:12).

“You did not choose Me,” Jesus said, *“but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide”* (John 15:16). How blessed we are to be chosen to have our identity in Christ, to be chosen for the tasks He gives us to do! Let us joyfully take up the work He gives us as we make known to all the Savior, the Word made flesh.

May peace and joy abound in our lives as we celebrate Jesus’ coming into the world as our Rescuer from sin and death!



Voters Meeting Results

Thank you and congratulations to those elected to serve our congregation in 2019: Amy Teske, Maturity Chair, and Vikki Ritzert, Treasurer.

We thank Paul Martinal who is finishing his term and declined nomination for another. This position was open at the end of the meeting. Since then Helen Bendes volunteered to serve as Worship Chair.

Thank you, too, for all those members who diligently continue to serve as your voting and caring representatives at the Administrative Board: Mike Vergiels, Chairman; Patti Vergiels, Fellowship Chair; Joann Wachter, Ministry/Inreach Chair; Judy Theung, Outreach Chair; John Parros, Property Chair; and Arleen Jacobsson, Stewardship Chair.

We also thank Sharron Sheridan and Judy Parros for continuing as our Reporting Secretary and our Financial Secretary respectively, appointed positions.

These members try hard to be responsible for what we as a church need to be doing both to maintain the building and serve the members and community in a Christian manner. Remember them in your prayers and encourage them as you can. In addition to these, your officers, Pastor and Becky hold advisory positions on the board and remain faithful in monthly attendance at the meetings.

A budget of \$211,805.00 was approved for 2019.

October 2018 Stewardship Summary

Average Church Attendance: 97

Average Holy Communion Attendance: 46

Education Hour - Adults & Youth: 30 Confirmation & Elementary: 8

Keep Saving and Sharing!

- 1) canned & boxed goods for community food pantries;
- 2) Boxtops for Education coupons on General Mills products;
- 3) Our Family UPC codes from Country Market
- 4) Motel/hotel freebies (shampoo, unwrapped soap, etc.)
- 5) Loose change (“mites”)

Bring items to church any time.

Special Worship Service Schedule

Join Us at
Advent Worship



The Church Season of Advent begins this year on Sunday, December 2. Like last year, we will hold our Advent worship services on Wednesday evenings at **6:30 p.m.** Our Theme is "God With Us."

Each week will focus on a different symbol of the coming Christ found in the poetic and prophetic words of Isaiah. There is a craft project for each week. We will work on the project beginning at 5:55 p.m.

Our Advent services this year will be held:

Wednesday, November 28, at 6:30 p.m.

Theme – "Our Potter"

Wednesday, December 5, at 6:30 p.m.

Theme – "Our Shepherd"

Wednesday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m.

Theme – "Our Living Branch"

Wednesday, December 19, at 6:30 p.m.

Theme – "Our Guide"



Hope's children will present a Christmas Program on Sunday, December 23, at 6:30 p.m.

Rehearsals will be Saturdays, December 15 and 22, from 10:00 a.m. until Noon.

Church Decorations

Our men will put up the sanctuary Christmas tree and other decorations inside and, weather permitting, outside the church on **Saturday, December 8, at 5:00 p.m.** We thank them for their work in making God's house beautiful for the Advent and Christmas seasons.



CHRISTMAS
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

Invite your friends and neighbors to come with you to: **our Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship on Monday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m.**

AND

Our Christmas Day Worship on Tuesday, December 25, at 10:30 a.m.

We'll celebrate Holy Communion.



We will gather to thank our loving Lord for the blessings and strength we received this year and to ask His blessing and guidance for the new year, 2019, on New Year's Eve, **Monday, December 31, at 7:00 p.m.** Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Angel Tree

The **Angel Tree** with names of children provided by the Salvation Army will soon be up in the lobby. If you chose to participate in this activity and have questions, address them to Phyllis Johnson or Carole Pahl.

After taking a child's name off the tree, please sign the chart located on the "altar" table in the lobby so we know who's buying for that child.

The due date to get your **unwrapped** gifts back to the church is (probably) **Sunday, December 9th.**

This is a very short turn-around time so act fast on completing your purchase. Place them under the Angel Tree with the card with the child's name and number attached.

We thank Phyllis Johnson and Carole Pahl for getting us the names from the Salvation Army and Bob Wachter and friends for putting up the lobby Christmas tree.



Women's Christmas Party

We will be making sure we have things in place for our Christmas Party at Hans and Arleen Jacobsson's home on **Saturday, December 8th, beginning at 5:30 p.m.**

For the Christmas Party remember:

All women are welcome though Arleen will need to know how many will be attending. Call Arleen to let her know if you will attend and if you can assist her with advanced preparations.

BRING:

A dish that can be eaten with our fingers preferably -- meat or veggie or dessert

A **wrapped** ornament for the annual game we play

Your reading glasses, if you need them, and your singing voice to join in the carols we'll sing

A gift for your Secret Sister (if you have one) to let her know who has been praying for her this year

We will pick names for Secret Sisters 2019 at the party. **Contact Sharron Sheridan, 403-0065, well before the party if you want to participate in the Secret Sisters 2019 program!** Information forms will be available in lobby soon. We will just draw names at the party. We will not fill out forms then.

Remember that this year Secret Sisters run through December 31, 2018 and the 2019 Sisters will begin January 1, 2019.



Remember to Save Mites

During this Advent/Christmas Season, we tend to do a lot of shopping. We can end the day with a lot of loose change. Why not let your mite container take the weight of that loose change out of your purse?

The (national) Lutheran Women's Missionary League will be closing the books on the 2017-2019 mission grant period on March 31, 2019. The "mites" we give to our Michigan District also helps the National fund their grants. Let us prayerfully support and help National and District fund all the grants selected!

Ask God to provide more workers in the mission field. Serve the needy people around you, too.

This month as you put money in your mite box say a prayer for Women Reaching Arab Women with the Gospel in Dearborn, Michigan, through People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO).

The largest mosque in North America is in Dearborn, Michigan. At this time, 2% of Michigan's population report Arab ancestry, compared to 1.2% in 2000.

Cultural differences exist between Muslim women and Christians; if not recognized, they can lead to misunderstandings and unnecessary challenges. Consequently, training to work in the mission field with this population will be key to ministry efforts.

In addition, methods to effectively minister to women can vary from those used with men. Mites will support targeted training specifically for women, with a goal to increase the effectiveness of this ministry.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, assembled in convention at Port Huron, MI, granted the sum of \$25,000 to provide training for 50 Christian women from the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to work with a POBLO missionary through Atonement Lutheran Church.

Prayer: Dear Lord, we pray that God works faith in the hearts of the women touched by this ministry, and that the efforts of those trained are blessed by our Lord and Savior. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

You are the Face of LWML!

We praise, O Christ, Your holy Name.
Truly human child You came,
From virgin born; this word is true.
Your angels are rejoicing, too. Alleluia!

The Prince, God's very Son, came here,
Guest among the sons of fear.
His banner leads us out of woe,
And to His royal hall we go. Alleluia!
Hymn 35, *Lutheran Worship*, v. 1 and 5

December Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Arleen Jacobsson	4
Heidi Fowler-Henzi	5
Krista Ziegler	12
Danielle Hofbauer	13
Becky Martinal	14
Fred Hauch, Jr.	15
Cambria Stevens	15
Hilda Cortez	16
Paul Martinal	21
Les Howard	25
Fonda Bozeman	27
Dianne Wrase	27
Hans Jacobsson	28
Dan Baumgartner	30

Baptismal Anniversaries

Maynard Howard	2
Amelia Martinal	6
Emily Caggiano	10
Gail Saylor	10
Carole Pahl	15
Jennifer Sande	16
Virginia Woodard	16
Jay Butler	18
Marnella Lafferty	21
Danielle Hofbauer	23
Ruth Lamley	24
James Logan	25

Baptismal Ann., cont.

Fred Hauch, Jr.	28
Heidi Fowler-Henzi	28
James P. Sheridan	31

Wedding Anniversaries

Jim & Vikki Ritzert	10
Dave & Dee Weisenfelder	13
Dan & Fonda Baumgartner	14
William & Judith Kohn	27
Bob & Joann Wachter	31

Congratulations...

...to Dave & Dee Weisenfelder, who celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary on the 13th.

We Pray This Month:

- For the Nations of the world for peace, healing from their troubles, the spread of the Gospel
- For Our Nation –
 - that God would guide and protect all our elected leaders and our military
 - that God would provide comfort and recovery to those experiencing fire losses
- 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
- For Hope –
 - that God would guide our Administrative Board as they do their work and would raise godly leaders to assist us in fulfilling our mission for God
 - that God would bless and grow our Sunday School, our congregation, Children/Youth Min.
- For those who grieve: family of: George Alarid
- For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Myrna Sheldon	DeLight Sieler	Virginia Woodard
Helen Bendes (arthritis)	Dave & Dee Weisenfelder	Margaret Parker
Bonnie Posten (eyes)	Patti Vergiels (surgery)	Maynard Howard
Arleen Jacobsson (feet)	Ron & Dianne Gentz	Dorothy Studnicka
Carol Herter (hip replacement)	Sandy Houck	Sue Howard
Dorothy Parker	Tricia Moyer-Fowler	Madeline Sande
Jay Butler (migraines)	Danielle Hofbauer	Lisa Frison (mini-stroke)
Barry Kafer (hurt in fall)	Jutta Gross	Marti Hudelston
Jaxon Stanley (not growing)	Christian Falzone	Alan Garrison
Eric Montroy (needs new liver)	Fonda Bozeman (surgery)	Larry & Betty Bendes
Adam Bartek (dialysis)	Kimberley Balowski	Karen Webb (stroke)
The Davis Family	Bill & Jeanie Landry	Phyllis Hackney
Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)	Kenny Cable (cancer)	Marilyn McKay (cancer)
Fred Faust (cancer)	Gregg Hopkins (cancer)	Steve McRobert (cancer)
Carol Roper (cancer)	Mark Garcia (cancer)	Sherry Williams (cancer)
George MacBlaine (cancer)	Chuck Christianson (cancer)	Christie Lemley (cancer)
Gregg Woods (cancer)	Florence Hagerman (cancer)	Sally Sharp (hospice)

We give thanks to God for our many blessings

December Prayers

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 1 st Sunday in Advent 8:30am Classic Praise [C] 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song 12:30pm Youth Group	3	4	5 10am Ladies Stdy 6:30pm Advent Worship	6 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir	7	1 8 5pm Church Decorating 5:30pm Ladies' Christmas Party
9 2 nd Sunday in Advent 8:30am Classic Praise 10am Education Hour 11:00am New Song [C]	10 Newsletter Deadline	11 6:30pm Elders	12 10am Ladies Stdy 6:30pm Advent Worship	13 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir	14	15 10am Children's Program Practice
16 3 rd Sunday in Advent 8:30am Classic Praise [C] 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song 12:30pm Youth Group 4:00pm Concert	17	18	19 10am Ladies Stdy 6:30pm Advent Worship	20 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir	21	22 10am Children's Program Practice
23 4 th Sunday in Advent 8:45am Coffee & Donuts 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship [C] 6:30pm Children's Program	24 Christmas Eve 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day 10:30am Christmas Worship [C]	26	27	28	29
30 1 st Sunday of Christmas 8:45am Coffee & Donuts 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship [C] 12:30pm SOCCER practice for ALL	31 New Year's Eve 7:00pm NYE Worship [C]				[C] = Communion	

December 2018 Servant Schedule

USHERS: 8:30 a.m.: John Butler, Jay Butler, Lowell Oberhaus
11:00 a.m. 2 & 16: Rick Wetzel, Jon Henzi, Tom Sande **11:00 a.m.**
9: Otto Bilkey, James P. Sheridan

Dec.2	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	ELDER: R. Gentz; ELDER ASS'T: J. Johnson; READERS: Sue Muck, Bill Kohn; COMMUNION: the Johnsons	READERS: Youth
Dec. 5	6:30 p.m.	ELDER/READER: John Butler	
Dec. 9	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	ELDER: Jo. Butler; READERS: Judy Parros, Jim Logan	
		ELDER: R. Wetzel; ELDER ASS'T: O. Bilkey; READERS: Carol Herter, Dale Martinal; COMMUNION: the Sandes	
Dec. 12	6:30 p.m.	ELDER/READER: B. Kohn;	
Dec. 16	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	ELDER: John Butler; ELDER ASS'T: H. Jacobsson; READERS: Hilda Cortez, Dick Kuntz; COMMUNION: the Jacobssons	
		READERS: Envoy	
Dec. 19	6:30 p.m.	ELDER/READER:	
Dec. 23	10:00 a.m.	ELDER: B. Kohn; ELDER ASS'T: D. Martinal; READERS: Judy Theung, Mike Vergiels; COMMUNION: the Johnsons	
Dec. 23	6:30 p.m.	ELDER: R. Wetzel	
Dec. 24	7:00 p.m.	ELDER/READER: Jim Logan	
Dec. 25	10:30 a.m.	ELDER: Jo. Butler; ELDER ASS'T: D. Martinal; READERS: Carol Herter, John Butler; COMMUNION: the Martinals	
Dec. 30	10:00 a.m.	ELDER: R. Wetzel; ELDER ASS'T: J. Logan; READERS: Helen Bendes, Rick Wetzel; COMMUNION: the Sandes	
Dec. 31	7:00 p.m.	ELDER: R. Gentz; ELDER ASS'T: D. Martinal; READERS: Mary Martinal, Ron Gentz; COMMUNION: the Martinals	