



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

The Messenger

December
2020

Pastor
The Rev. Paul Herter

Youth/Family Life
Becky Martinal, D.C.E.

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.

Worship the Lord and Pray

Dear Ones in Christ,

What a year this has been! As 2020 draws to a close, we still live in the midst of a threatening pandemic, a confusing and troubling national election, and the specter of more and more restrictive government policies. Everyone in our country has been affected in some way! Thousands of lives and thousands of livelihoods have been destroyed. Indeed, it seems as though every time some small hope is expressed from which we can take encouragement, that hope is dashed by the negative and often imbalanced reporting from our hypersensitive media.

The two campaigns for president largely expressed both the hopes and the fears of our fellow citizens. On the one hand: “the best is yet to come” and, on the other hand, we should prepare for a “dark winter.” How people react to these viewpoints, both optimistic and pessimistic, depends largely on their own circumstances and point of view. Certainly other factors play in as well.

The “dark winter” prediction reminds me of the C.S. Lewis allegory, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, “where it’s always winter but never Christmas” in the realm of the ‘white witch.’ Such a view is gloomy, depressing and fear-mongering. It especially seems to express the view of those who are “without hope and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12).

“The best is yet to come” seems to look forward to a brighter future as we navigate our way through the pandemic with several vaccines on the horizon and the gradual recovery of our once strong economy. In the meantime, it requires us to “flatten the fear” as we move forward in faith. This means that we, our fellow believers, and the church at large, need to provide leadership, encouragement, and hope even in the “dark winter” and difficult times we are facing at present. As unprecedented as the circumstances are for us in our generation, we have Christ’s own promise to be with us as we walk confidently into the future!

As difficult as it has been for the church and our members living here in Michigan, it is far preferable to those state governments, like New York and California, for example, where the freedom to worship is being strongly curtailed!

This should concern every American citizen, regardless of party affiliation, since, and I’ve said this before, the first part of the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights deals specifically with religious liberty. The First Amendment provides that Congress make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise. It protects freedom of speech, the press, assembly, and the right to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. To me, the curtailing of our Right to gather for worship then leads to curtailing the rest of the First Amendment. This should disturb every Christian and American citizen!

Charles Colson, in his classic book, *Kingdoms in Conflict*, points out that church and state have different functions. If government tries to run the church, it will ruin it. If the church takes on governmental power, the church will be corrupted. But a government without godly values is a threat to humanity.

As American citizens, we are empowered by the Constitution to address these and other issues facing our nation. As members of God’s Church, we are empowered by God’s Word and prayer to “fight the good fight” on spiritual grounds.

May God bless us His Church and may God bless America!

Pastor Paul



Stewardship Corner

Spread the Word

In a short time, we will be celebrating the birth of Christ – a major event, even for those who don't believe in Him. God's Son came to live among us in order to forgive us, reconcile us with our Heavenly Father, and give us life everlasting.

How different our celebrations today are from the first Christmas more than 2,000 years ago! Mary and Joseph found no room in an inn so they “wrapped [Jesus] in strips of cloth and placed Him in a manger” (Luke 2:7). There were no reporters or photographers waiting outside to write a newspaper article or to snap the first picture of the new king. No one knew what was happening! No one, that is, except for the parents and the host of Heaven who made the announcement. But to whom was this announcement made? To the powerful who would speed through the towns and villages, spreading the news? To the privileged elite? No, to shepherds who were outcasts, hired hands who were so low on the social scale that they weren't even allowed to give testimony in a court of law. They weren't even allowed to come into the Temple.

Yet these were the ones chosen by God to tell the good news. These wretched creatures saw the angels and “...the glory of the Lord shone around them...” They heard the message the angels brought: “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord ...You will find a baby...lying in a manger” (Luke 2:9,11). They saw, they listened, and then they went to see for themselves. After receiving the Good News, they spread it. “When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them” (Luke 2:17-18).

If lowly shepherds could tell the story, can't we as well? “All who heard it were amazed,” Luke writes, but he doesn't say all believed. All we're asked to do is tell the story. How could fear, uncertainty, or apathy hold us back? This is the biggest news mankind has ever received! As stewards of the Gospel, we have no choice but to follow the example of the shepherds and “spread the word concerning what has been told [us] about this Child.”

May God grant us all the passion to tell others of Jesus' birth and love for all people.

Thrivent members, you have Action Team grant money available to you! Plan now to apply for and use your grants! Go to Thrivent's website for more info.

Voters Meeting Results

Thank you to Amy Giroux, who has finished her term of service as Maturity Chair.

Thank you, too, for all those members who diligently continue to serve as your voting and caring representatives at the Administrative Board: Michael Fink, Congregational Chairman; Sue Muck, Ministry Chair; Hans Jacobsson, Property Chair; Jane Stevens, Fellowship Chair; Judy Theung, Outreach Chair – and Arleen Jacobsson, Stewardship Chair

We also thank Sharron Sheridan for continuing as our Reporting Secretary and Mary Martinal for agreeing to serve as our Financial Secretary, appointed positions.

We are still seeking persons to serve as our Maturity Chair and our Treasurer. Contact Arleen Jacobsson for more details on these positions, or to volunteer to serve.

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 \$222,000.00 was approved for 2021.

It was reported that a private donation will again fund our Radio spots, “A Minute to Consider,” during 2021.

Lutheran Witness Subscriptions

NOW is the time to sign up to receive the official magazine of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in your home. Cost is \$11.60. Make check payable to Hope. Sign up in lobby or call church office. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, December 8.

Bible Study

Ron Gentz's Tuesday morning Bible Study will be “on vacation” during December. The group resumes meeting on Tuesday, January 5, at 9:30 a.m. at church to study “Daniel.” If you plan to participate in this group, please let Ron know (call 517-416-2097 or email him at dig32@frontier.com) so he can have enough materials prepared

Special Worship Service Schedule

Join us for Thanksgiving Eve worship, November 25, at 6:30 p.m. Please wear a face mask.

The Church Season of Advent begins this year on Sunday, November 29. Join us for Advent Worship on Wednesday, December 2, at 6:30 p.m. Masks are optional for this service.

Other Advent services are still to be determined.

Due to the pandemic, the Family Faith Time activity we've held before our Wednesday evening services will not be held. Pray that we can gather again next year.

Christmas services – Christmas Eve and Christmas Day – are still to be determined. New Year's Eve worship is also still to be determined.

Please keep watching your emails for the latest information.



Hope's children will present a ***Christmas Program*** this year.

It will look different because of the pandemic.

Volunteers are needed to prepare audio and/or video recording of part of the Christmas Story. Contact Becky if you will help.

Church Decorations

The sanctuary will still be decorated for Christmas! Our crew of decorators needs to be smaller than usual, so if you are willing to help out, contact Dale Martinal, 260-1113. Masks will be required. We will decorate **Saturday, December 5, time to be determined**. We thank them for their work in making God's house beautiful for the Advent and Christmas seasons.



Angel Tree

The **Angel Tree** with names of children provided by the Salvation Army is up in the lobby. And we still have some names of less fortunate children left. If you chose to participate in this activity and have questions, address them to Phyllis Johnson or Carole Pahl.

It is important that you sign the chart located in the lobby when you take a child's name so we know who is buying for that child. Take the bottom two tear-off sections to attach to the gift.

The due date to get your **unwrapped** gifts back to the church is **Monday, December 14th**. Place gifts with the card with the child's name and number attached in the corner where Angel Tree sits.

We thank Phyllis Johnson for getting us the names from the Salvation Army.

Thank you, Bob Wachter, for putting up our tree. Thank you, Phyllis and Carole Pahl, for decorating it.

If you would like to get a name without the crowds on Sunday, contact the Church Office.

Thank You!

Empty bottles and cans returned to Hope during the last several months has given a real boost to Hope's Youth Ministry. Thank you to everyone who has donated their empties!

As of November 8, 2020, we have realized \$434.70 in bottle returns.

Hope Youth is still accepting donations!

The Poinsettia

In the United States, the flower most symbolic of the Christmas season is the poinsettia. It was brought to this country in 1828 by Dr. Joel Poinsett, the first United States Ambassador to Mexico who discovered it there and for whom the flower is named.

A Mexican legend tells that many years ago in a certain village there was the custom each Christmas Eve of placing gifts before the crèche in the church. A small boy having nothing to give knelt to pray in the snow outside. When he arose, he found in the spot where he knelt a beautiful plant with scarlet leaves and a yellow flower in the center. He picked the stalk and presented it as his gift to the Christ Child. The Mexicans call it "Flower of the Holy Night" and think it resembles the Star of Bethlehem.



Women's Study & Fellowship

We invite the ladies of Hope to come to a special Bible Study/Fellowship Event at **Hope Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 5th, beginning at 4:00 p.m.** We will wear our face masks – at least until seated. We will space out the tables and designate some as masked and some as masked optional.

We are hoping to provide a light, pre-packaged lunch or other goodie at no cost to you! Bring your gift for your Secret Sister (if you have one) to let her know who has been praying for her this year. Bring an **unwrapped** ornament for our annual game as we will play it a little differently this year.

We will pick names for Secret Sisters 2021 at the party. **Contact Sharron Sheridan, 403-0065, well before the party if you want to participate in the Secret Sisters 2021 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, 2020 and the 2021 Sisters will begin January 1, 2021.

All women are welcome! Please reserve your place by December 2 by contacting Becky Martinal or the Church Office.

A Christmas Quiz

Each of the following is a restated title of a Christmas Carol. How many can you identify?

1. Exalted heavenly beings we have perceived by our auditory mechanisms.
2. May the omnipotent Supreme Being grant you respite, ecstatic personages of the male gender.
3. Proceed forth declaring upon a specific geological alpine formation.
4. The first person nominative plural of a triumvirate of oriental potentates.
5. In awe of the nocturnal time span characterized by religiosity.



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 2019-2021 mission grant period on March 31, 2021. 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.



Give and Receive!

We are reaching the midway point and remain persistent in the race to Lexington, Kentucky, and the 39th Biennial LWML Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, June 24-27, 2021. December is a month for giving. Pray for God's blessings on the 2021 LWML Convention Host Committee as they have been giving their time and talents in the planning for this convention. Then prayerfully consider giving of your time and talents as a runner/worker at the convention. A Call for Workers! Volunteer Application Form can be found at the LWML Indiana District website, www.lwmlindiana.org. Complete and return the form before February 1, 2021, so committee chairmen and directors know where you would like to serve. Men, family members, friends, and teens, are also welcome to volunteer. All volunteers will need to complete the Call for Workers form. Volunteers will receive a discount on their registration fee for serving a minimum of eight hours. As a volunteer, you will receive the rewards/blessings of serving as together we are "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus." Be sure to also go to www.lwmlindiana.org and download the order form for the LWML Convention Logo Polo Shirt and place the order before March 1, 2021. You can help promote the convention by wearing the convention logo shirt.

You are the Face of LWML!

December Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Arleen Jacobsson	4
Heidi Fowler-Henzi	5
Krista Ziegler	12
Danielle Hofbauer	13
Becky Martinal	14
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

Kevin Giroux	2
Maynard Howard	2
Sophia Holmes	6
Amelia Martinal	6
Emily Caggiano	10
Gail Sayler	10
Carole Pahl	15
Jennifer Sande	16
Jay Butler	18
Marnella Lafferty	21
Danielle Hofbauer	23
Ruth Lamley	24
James Logan	25

Baptismal Ann., cont.

Heidi Fowler-Henzi	28
James P. Sheridan	31
Arleen Jacobsson	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 Bill & Judy Kohn on their 40th anniversary!

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 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 –

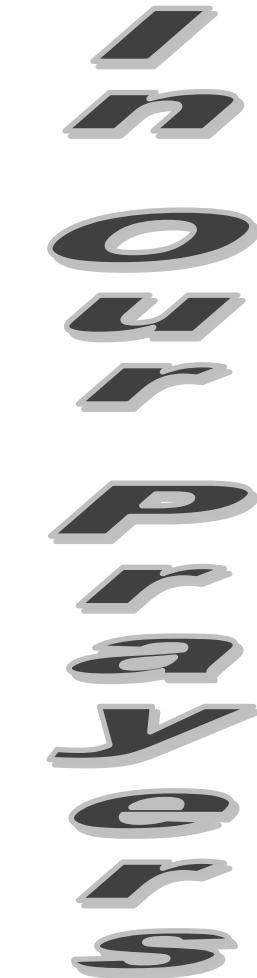
that God would guide our Administrative Board as they do their work and would raise godly leaders to assist us in fulfilling our mission for God

that God would bless and grow our Sunday School, our congregation, Children/Youth Min.

For those who grieve: families of: Sue Howard; Jenny Rohrbach, Mark Case; Meredith Louden

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Myrna Sheldon	Ron Gentz	Chuck & Ruth Presley
Dorothy Parker	Dave & Dee Weisenfelder	Margaret Parker
Eleanor Schippers	Tricia Moyer-Fowler	Maynard Howard
Marcia Albain (headaches)	Les Howard	Stephanie Butler
Arleen Jacobsson (ankle)	Patti Vergiels (pain)	Andrea Jenkins
Sherrell Hofbauer (back)	Jim Hill (Parkinson's)	Brad Housman (pain)
Jim & Diana Gulliksen	Mike Weisenfelder	Marti Hudelson
Kristie Smith (eye issues)	Jada Korsman	Karl Kellk
Jon Willett (lung transplant)	John Parlier	Micheal Thiel
Bob Beagle	Cliff Allen (hip)	Sharon Neal (hip)
Bill & Jeanie Landry	Larry & Betty Bendes	Alan Garrison
Gloria Putten	George Mosier	Verna Garsey
Casey Muck (concussion)	Ernie Henzi (hospice)	Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)
Rod Pender (cancer)	Brenda Kafer (cancer)	Doug Thumm (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)
Gregg Woods (cancer)	Jerry Strayer (cancer)	Tom Salbut (cancer)



December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
[C] = Communion		1 9am Circuit Pastors here 6:30pm Admin. Board mtg.	2 6:30pm Advent Worship	3 9:30am Home School Group	4	5 4pm Ladies Christmas Party 5pm Church Decorating
6 2 nd Sunday in Advent 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation	7	8 6:30pm Elders	9 Advent Worship - TBD	10 9:30am Home School Group	11	12 1pm Special Choir Rehearsal
13 3 rd Sunday in Advent 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation	14 Angel Tree gifts due Newsletter Deadline	15	16 Advent Worship - TBD	17 9:30am Home School Group	18	19
20 4 th Sunday in Advent 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation ?	21	22	23 Advent Worship- TBD	24 Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Worship - TBD	25 Christmas Day Christmas Worship - TBD	26
27 1 st Sunday of Christmas 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve NYE Worship - TBD		

December 2020 Servant Schedule

Dec. 2	6:30 p.m.	ELDER/READER:
Dec. 6	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: John Butler
	10:30 a.m.	ELDER: Jim Logan; READERS: Youth, Jim Logan
Dec. 9	?	ELDER/READER:
Dec. 13	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Ron Gantz
	10:30 a.m.	ELDER: Rick Wetzel; READERS: Jennifer Sande, Rick Wetzel
Dec. 16	?	ELDER/READER:
Dec. 20	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: John Butler
	10:30 a.m.	ELDER: Bill Kohn; READERS: Carol Herter, Bill Kohn
Dec. 23	?	ELDER:
Dec. 24	?	ELDER/READER:
Dec. 25	?	ELDER:
Dec. 27	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: John Butler
	10:30 a.m.	ELDER: Jim Logan; READERS: Judy Theung, Jim Logan
Dec. 31	?	ELDER: