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The Messenger

February
2019

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)

God's Plan Found in God's Word

Dear Ones in Christ,

- “Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in Our image, in Our likeness,...’ So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; **male and female** He created them.” Genesis 1:26-27
- [God said] “I will establish My covenant with you, and you will enter the ark – you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, **male and female**, to keep them alive with you.” Genesis 6:18-19
- “God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also **abandoned natural relations** with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.” Romans 1:26-27

“Vote for Science” – that’s what I saw imprinted upon a local man’s shirt just before the 2018 midterm elections. As I mentioned last month, it seemed like a reasonable exhortation to me, except that it depends on what you mean by “science.” It certainly seems that much of what is promoted nowadays by the media in the name of science is actually more a veneration of the concepts of science without actually untruthfully acknowledging either an unbiased application of scientific method or the results of true science itself. What’s really being promoted here might actually be called “scientism.” As I said last month, unfortunately and often tragically, even good science is being corrupted by political agenda. (And no, I didn’t ask the person wearing the shirt what he meant by that statement.)

Well, this is February, which along with Valentine’s Day, has traditionally become a month celebrated for its focus on romance and love (not so much God’s sacrificial love as it was back in the time of the real St. Valentine, but rather erotic love with a focus on sexual activity.) Interestingly enough, back in the days of Valentine, he was imprisoned for marrying couples that the government did not want married so that the men could easily be drafted into the Emperor’s army.

Nowadays, our government endorses “marriage” of couples with varying sexual identities and proclivities in order that they might be socially validated and perhaps receive a tax break!

Romance and marriage and the consummation of marriage between a husband (man) and wife (female) is celebrated and blessed by God in His Holy Word. The Bible is not against romance and sex within the boundaries God has given in His Word! Those boundaries and commands are intended for humanity’s good order and divine blessings! When God’s

(Continued on page 3)

Be Imitators of Jesus

God created man and announced His creation to be “*very good*” (Genesis 1:31), but, because of self-will and pride, Adam and Eve sinned, causing man to be separated from God. To bridge that separation, God rescued us with the greatest gift of all: His very own Son. In Christ, God speaks to us, reaches out to us with forgiveness, and receives us into fellowship. All we have has been freely given to us, not because of who we are or what we do, but because of Whose we are. Through faith, we see God’s redemptive grace in Jesus, and we are motivated to live our lives for Him (Ephesians 2:8-10).

In Jesus, we see the attributes of God. In Hebrews 1:3-4 we read, “*[The Son] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.*” God the Father has revealed the light of His glory in His Son, Jesus. As true man, Jesus lived the life of a perfect steward for the glory of His Heavenly Father. Just as Jesus put aside his own interests and desires— “*Not as I will, but as You will*”— (Matthew 26:39), we are called to be obedient through faith to God’s ways rather than the ways of the world and our own natures. As God’s stewards, we also receive joy and encouragement in knowing that we are obediently serving the Lord.

Jesus is always to be our preeminent model for our lives as stewards. We have a Savior Who lived the perfect life in our places. With an attitude of gratitude and joy in what God in Christ has done for us, we read and adopt the Apostle Paul’s admonition, “*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ*” (1 Corinthians 11:1). Through the working of the Holy Spirit, our goal is to “*Put to death, therefore, what is earthly in you*” (Colossians 3:5). By God’s grace, we fix our eyes on Jesus, Who is the “*founder and perfecter of our faith*” (Hebrews 12:2). To that end, we should saturate our minds with the truths in God’s Word rather than the teachings of the world. “*Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!*” (2 Corinthians 9:15).

Pastor’s Article, cont.

Word is violated, in human relationships as well as in other areas of life, our sin and the sins of others confuse and corrupt our life together. If you sometimes wonder why our nation is so conflicted and angry, it’s primarily because we have decided to listen to our own thoughts and feelings instead of following God’s Word.

No doubt you have heard or read about the “rights” of the so-called “L.G.B.T.Q.” community. You probably know that the “L” stands for “Lesbian” – those females who are drawn romantically/sexually towards other women instead of men. The “G” stands for “Gay” – those males who are drawn romantically/sexually towards other men instead of women. (Lest we be confused, in the Bible there are examples of close brotherly love between men with men and women with women without any lust or sin involved. The close loving friendship between David and Jonathon is one example. 1 Samuel 18:1ff) The “B” stands for “Bisexual” – those men or women who are driven to have sexual relations with other men or women; gender doesn’t matter to them, it’s all about their own sexual pleasure. The “T” stands for “Transgender” – those males and females who are confused about their thoughts/feelings regarding their own gender. This is different from the “L.G. & B.” because, whereas those previous are people controlled by their passions, transgenderism is directed by their perceptions of reality. “L.G. & B.” involves a choice; transgenderism is basically a psychological/emotional confusion. This is clear science; not scientism – driven by a political/media agenda. (The “Q” stands for “Questioning” – which is not surprising given the present confusion and corruption in our society.)

What we need is for all churches and all God’s people to return to the sure foundation of the Bible. If that happens, we can, with God’s help, influence our nation in righteousness and compassion to return to that sure foundation as well!

Peace and love in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Paul

Mighty Mites

What are “mites”? Mites are money which we place in a special container to be dedicated to the Lord’s service through the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML). 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 the Food and Clothing Co-operative at Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne IN. The cost of an education for an individual attending one of our theological seminaries can range from \$50,000 - \$60,000 per year. While assistance is available and many students work, they need to focus on their studies to be the best leaders – and we want to support them in that! Many of them have families, and while it is common for a spouse to work it is not likely that they will be able to cover all of the expenses in this way. The Fort Wayne Seminary may have 300 students in a school year, many with families who have given up a secure life.

Families at the Ft Wayne location have the opportunity to go to the Food and Clothing Cooperative. Food and clothing donated to the cooperative allows for these families to access necessary supplies that they may not be able to obtain otherwise. For example, a wife may be entering the work force after time raising a family and need an appropriate wardrobe that is expensive to obtain. Families can also obtain food supplies, using their income to fund necessary expenses for housing and school.

Prayer: Dear Lord, please bless our future church leaders and bless our mite offerings that they may provide the support that enables them to serve. In Jesus name, Amen.

The Michigan District LWML, meeting in Port Huron, MI, in July 2018, granted \$10,000 for allow for the purchase of perishable food for the Cooperative.

Hope Women

Hope Women meets again on Monday, February 11, at 6:00 p.m. Remember to bring non-perishable items to include in the packages we will prepare for our away-at-college students and some extra cash for the gas cards we will be purchasing for our commuting college students.

Thank You!

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

We wanted to say thank you for bringing us your 32 shoe box gifts. The Jackson Collection site sent out 20,713 boxes that are now on their way to Ghana, Togo, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Madagascar and the Philippines. The children who will receive the boxes will bet to hear about Jesus, some for the first time.

Thank you for putting your boxes together and we will pray that God will bless you for your efforts.

Let us know how we can pray for you and if you want to hear more about the journey of your boxes.

May God bless you,

The Mid-South MI Area Team
Operation Christmas Child

Share the Warmth

Hope members are asked to help at the new Homeless Shelter in Adrian with two other churches during the week of February 10-17, 2019. For each shift (7pm – midnight and midnight – 7am) one man and one woman needs to stay with those sheltering there. Help is also needed during the day as the Shelter is open all day every day. Laundry also needs to be taken to a designated laundromat each day. Watch for sign-up sheet or talk to Joann Wachter, 517-442-2739.



Ash Wednesday

Lent begins Wednesday, **March 6, 2019**. We set aside 40 days (not counting Sundays) to think deeply about the price Jesus paid for our sins. We are helped with this pondering in our Ash Wednesday worship at 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion will be celebrated. Lenten services will follow on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Ask your friends, neighbors and co-workers to join you on your Lenten journey.



Find your treasure in God's Word
Read your Bible every day

Remember 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.

Your items can be placed behind the Welcome Center in the church lobby.

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

Love Divine, all love excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.
by Charles Wesley

God Loves the Unlovely into Loveliness

Sinners are lovely because they are loved; they are not loved because they are lovely. That is why the love of man avoids sinners and evil persons. But Christ says: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners (Matthew 9:13). And this is the love of the cross, born of the cross, which betakes itself, not where it may find something good to enjoy but where it may confer good upon the poor and the needy; for it is more blessed to give than to receive, says the apostle (Acts 20:35).

The Difference Between God and Man

The love of God does not find but creates that in which it delights; the love of man is generated by what it delights in.

(Martin Luther, *What Luther Says*)

The finest gifts are given, not after waiting until need has to ask, but by the person whose eye sees and whose heart feels and whose hand is stretched out even before any request is made. It was while we were yet enemies that Christ died for us. God hears our prayers even before we speak them. And we should be to our fellow men even as God has been to us.

William Barclay

Keep Saving and Sharing!

The quick checklist of things for everyone to be saving:

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

Any questions on any of these items (just what to save, where to put items, etc.), call the Church Office, 263-4317.

December 2018 Stewardship Summary

Average Church Attendance: 90

Average Holy Communion Attendance: 51

Education Hour - Adults & Youth: 29;

Confirmation & Elementary: 9

February Celebrations

Happy Birthday

John Fowler	1
Linda Oberhaus	5
Jim Ritzert	9
Erika Lewis	15
Bob Wachter	18
Jacob Sande	22
Marilyn Caggiano	23
Judy Theung	26

Baptismal Anniversaries

John Fowler	1
Janice Bilkey	10
Sarah Morgan Fuss	13
Joann Udy Wachter	14
Benjamin Martinal	16
David Weisenfelder	17
Lisa Frison	27

Wedding Anniversaries

Michael & Darlene Fink	14
Mark & Debra Gauthier	14
George & Ranetta MacBlaine	24

Happy Valentine's Day

We Pray This Month:

For the Nations of the world for peace, healing from their troubles, and spread of the Gospel

For Our Nation –

that God would provide comfort and support to all who are suffering from natural disasters
 that God would guide and protect our local, state and national elected officials
 that God would guide our schools, colleges, and universities to useful learning
 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 2019 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: Kathleen Jensen, Violet Simons, Virginia Martinal

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	Maynard Howard
Ruth Lamley	Ron & Dianne Gentz	Dorothy Studnicka
Dorothy Parker	Sandy Houck	Sue Howard
Tricia Moyer-Fowler	Marnella Campbell Lafferty	Sherrell Hofbauer
Mike Griffith (shoulder)	Amelia Martinal (feet)	Sue Johnson
Jutta Gross	Linda Hall	Rev. William Gatz
Jaxon Stanley (not growing)	Christian Falzone	Alan Garrison
Eric Montroy (needs new liver)	Larry & Betty Bendes	Adam Bartek (dialysis)
Kimberley Balowski	Marti Hudelston	Dianne Cottrill
Casey Muck	Don Wells	Neal Knight
Cindy Bendes Carr	Bill & Jeanie Landry	Phyllis Hackney
Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)	Dale Chase (cancer)	Andrew Frank (cancer)
Gregg Hopkins (cancer)	Marilyn McKay (cancer)	Steve McRobert (cancer)
Kenny Cable (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)

Thanks for all blessings!

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

Our Prayers

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:30am Adult Instruction	2
3 4 th Sunday a. Epiphany 8:30am Classic Praise [C] 10am Education Hour 11:00am New Song	4	5 9am Circuit Pastors here	6 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm Bible Study	7 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir	8 10:30am Adult Instruction	9
10 5 th Sunday a. Epiphany 8:30am Classic Praise 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song[C] 12:30pm Youth Group **	11 6pm Hope Women	12 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr. ? 6:30pm Elders	13 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm Bible Study	14 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir	15 10:30am Adult Instruction	16
Hope to help with Share the Warmth Feb. 10-17 – Talk to Joann Wachter, 442-2739						
17 6 th Sunday a. Epiphany 8:30am Classic Praise [C] 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song	18 Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Admin Board	19 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr	20 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm Bible Study	21 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir	22 10:30am Adult Instruction	23 2-6pm Sande Party
24 7 th Sunday a. Epiphany 8:30am Classic Praise 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song [C] 12:30pm Youth Group **	25 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">DCE Conference, Grand Rapids</div>	26 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr	27 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm Bible Study	28 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir		[C] = Communion ** Lunch volunteers needed

February 2019 Servant Schedule

USHERS: 8:30 a.m. Feb.: Mike Griffith, Jerry Johnson,
11:00 a.m. Feb. 3 & 17: Rick Wetzel, Jon Henzi, Tom Sande
11:00 a.m. Feb. 10 & 24: Otto Bilkey, James P. Sheridan,

Feb. 3 8:30 a.m. **ELDER:** Bill Kohn; **ELDER ASS'T:** Jerry Johnson; **LITURGY ASS'T:** Jim Logan; **READER:** Sue Muck;
COMMUNION: Jerry & Phyllis Johnson
 11:00 a.m. **READERS:** Youth; Jon Henzi

Feb. 10 8:30 a.m. **ELDER:** John Butler; **LITURGY ASS'T:** John Butler; **READER:** Judy Parros
 11:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Jim Logan; **COMMUNION ASS'T:** Otto Bilkey; **READERS:** Carol Herter; Dale Martinal;
COMMUNION: the Sande Family

Feb. 11 8:30 a.m. **ELDER:** John Butler; **ELDER ASS'T:** Hans Jacobsson; **LITURGY ASS'T:** Dick Kuntz; **READER:** Dee Weisenfelder; **COMMUNION:** the Jacobssons
 11:00 a.m. **READERS:** envoy

Feb. 24 8:30 a.m. **ELDER:** Bill Kohn; **LITURGY ASS'T:** Jerry Johnson; **READER:** Judy Theung
 11:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Rick Wetzel; **COMMUNION ASS'T:** Dale Martinal; **READERS:** Patti Vergiels; Dale Martinal;
COMMUNION: HELP NEEDED!!!!