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The Messenger

January
2021

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.

Moving Forward – Be GLAD!

Dear Members and Friends of Hope Lutheran Church – beloved children of God!

Do any of you remember watching the television show, “Fear Factor”? Is it still on? Not that it needs to be. We’ve all been experiencing a pandemic fear factor that has frightened people by the threat of catching the coronavirus and by the, sometimes irrational, fear of the coronavirus! As I think I wrote last spring, it’s a toss-up as to which will impact us more: the deadly virus or the deadly fear caused by the virus! Actually, I think both!

I don’t know about you, but I had much different plans for 2020 last January! Looking back a year ago, I was hoping that the year 2020 would be a year in which we gained wisdom and understood more of the Lord’s 2020 vision for His people. Instead, it sure has been a topsy-turvy, frustrating and scary time that we’ve experienced in this year. And it’s not over yet!

Despite some good news on the medical front, we continue to experience tough times as a Church, as a nation, and throughout the world! The Lord, Whose birth we just celebrated again, continues to be with us as He promised, despite any trials, tribulations, and temptations!

Perhaps the Lord has granted us a measure of 2020 spiritual vision, just not in ways in which we anticipated or imagined? It certainly has been a trying time for God’s people, not the least of which has been trying to trust the Lord and honor the governmental authorities at the same time. Indeed, in some states, like California and New York, and some big cities, like Chicago, church gatherings have been squelched and Constitutional freedoms have been limited by governmental fiat. It took more than seven months, but at least the US Supreme Court has come down on the side of the Constitution (for the most part). After all, as you know and as I have said on various occasions: the first part of the First Amendment is Freedom of Religion. The rest of that First Amendment talks about the Freedom of Speech, Freedom of the Press, and the Freedom to Peacefully Assemble and Petition the government for redress of grievances. As someone said, you don’t throw away your rights and freedoms even during – and perhaps especially during – a pandemic. Finding balance between liberty and safety is not easy, but a highly necessary challenge for a free people.

Thankfully, our congregation has been able to offer the opportunity for in-person worship services and even Bible studies since May 2020. About two thirds of our active congregation have worshiped and/or communed with us in a variety of venues since May. Hopefully, the remaining third will reengage with the congregation soon, perhaps, in some fashion at least, by Easter. As your Pastor, I remain ready to connect with you personally in Word and Sacrament ministry. (Kudos to our dedicated volunteers and staff members who have worked tirelessly to keep us connected through technology utilizing Facebook and Zoom and WebEx!)

The last thing I want to share with you in this month’s communiqué is something that I heard recently on Christian radio. The suggestion was made that we should practice being **GLAD** every day: the **G** reminds us to be **Grateful** for something each day; the **L** reminds us to think of something we have **Learned** that day; the **A** reminds us to consider something we have **Accomplished** that day; and the **D** prompts us to recall something that **Delighted** us that day! Well, fellow Christians, I recommend this daily practice for all of us, too! Blessed New Year!

Yours in the Love of Christ,

Pastor Paul

Stewardship Corner

Going Above and Beyond

We know of or have heard about people who were able to accomplish remarkable goals and accomplishments through sheer determination and effort. They were driven through hardships, sacrifice, and exhaustion toward the end they were striving to achieve. Some people are blessed with a never-quit attitude. This attitude was captured in a movie titled *Rudy* that was made back in 1993. This movie is based on a true story of a young man who loved Notre Dame football and wanted nothing more than to play for the team. He was a walk-on, undersized, too slow and too small. He was so determined to make the team and play in a game that he practiced harder and worked harder than anyone else on the team. At one point in the film, the coach said, "I wish God would put your heart in some of my players' bodies." To play for the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, Rudy went above and beyond.

Most of us are not going to excel on the football field, but, as God's people, we are called to work diligently in our service to others and to extend God's kingdom. The Apostle Paul wrote, "*Be steadfast...always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain*" (1 Corinthians 15:58b). God wants us to "*walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God*" (Colossians 1:10). God wants us to be productive people in His kingdom.

As Christians, we are called into ministry. Through faith we become more than just spectators. Just as Jesus ministered to the people of His time, we are to do the same today. "*For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you*" (John 13:15). Our ministries take place in our homes, in our neighborhoods, in our churches, and in our places of work. Jesus said, "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you*" (Matthew 28:19-20). Reaching out to the lost is at the very heart of our ministry. We have in Christ the saving truth of the Gospel that all people need to hear.

With God's help, we can go above and beyond in our efforts to please God and give Him the glory He deserves. When we commit our lives and resources to His service, we will hear Him say, "*Well done, good and faithful servant!*" (Matthew 25:23).

Money for Missions

January 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.

Please leave container with your mites on Mary's desk or mail (check) to church.

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.

Our Sympathies

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Helen Bendes, our 11:00 a.m. Music Director and Choir Accompanist.

We at Hope intend to hold a memorial service for Helen sometime in January.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Helen's brother and sister-in-law: Larry & Betty Bendes, 4079 Dover Lane, Bay City, Michigan 48706.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Diana Gulliksen, wife of Jim Gulliksen, our audio-visual technician of several years ago.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Jim Gulliksen, 2470 MacArthur Dr., Adrian, Michigan 49221.

2021 Administrative Board

Michael Fink, Congregational Chairman
Vikki Ritzert, Treasurer
Sharron Sheridan, Recording Secretary
Mary Martinal, Financial Secretary

Board Member, Fellowship – Jane Stevens
Board Member, Maturity/Nurture –
Board Member, Ministry – Sue Muck
Board Member, Outreach – Judy Theung
Board Member, Property – Hans Jacobsson
Board Member, Worship – James Sheridan
Board Member, Stewardship – Arleen Jacobsson

Please keep these leaders in your prayers.

Happy New Year!

January Celebrations

Happy Birthday

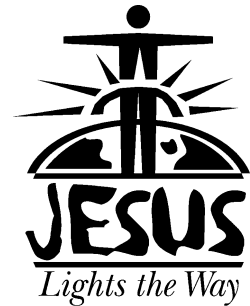
Joe Cortez	2
Barb Davis	4
Joann Wachter	5
Amanda Wetzel	6
Sharon Shulters	7
Bonnie Posten	8
Ben Martinal	12
Dene Minnema	12
James P. Sheridan	15
Tom Soltwisch	15
Ashley Wetzel Sancho	21
Eleanor Lorentz	27
Lisa Frison	30

Baptismal Anniversaries

Hans Jacobsson	1
Becky Martinal	1
Judy Theung	4
Zoe Krueger	11
Paul Martinal	11
Sherrell Hofbauer	13
Kelsey Krueger	15
Dalton Sancho	18
Eric Holmes	24
Bonnie Posten	24
Sharron Sheridan	28
Amanda Wetzel	30

Wedding Anniversaries

David & Kathy Brevoort 29



We Pray This Month:

For the Nations of the world for peace, good weather, and healing from their troubles

For Our Nation –

that God would guide and protect all our state governors and legislatures
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

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: Ernie Henzi, Helen Bendes, Don Dettmen, Bill Klann, Diana Gulliksen, Tom Salbut

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Myrna Sheldon	Eleanor Schippers	Chuck & Ruth Presley
Dorothy Parker	Dave & Dee Weisenfelder	Margaret Parker
Tricia Moyer-Fowler	Maynard Howard	Andrea Jenkins
Marcia Albain (headaches)	Les Howard	Stephanie Butler
Arleen Jacobsson (knee)	Patti Vergiels	Mike Weisenfelder
Kristie Smith (eye issues)	Jim Hill (Parkinson's)	Brad Housman (pain)
Marti Hudelston	Jada Korsman	Karl Kellk
Jon Willett (lung transplant)	John Parlier	Micheal Thiel
Bob Beagle	Sharon Neal (hip)	Gloria Putten
Bill & Jeanie Landry	Larry & Betty Bendes	Alan Garrison
Casey Muck (concussion)	Norma Fidler	Verna Garsey
Melissa Morton (stroke)	Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)	Rod Pender (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)

We give thanks to God for our many blessings.

HOPE
Prayers

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 2 nd Sunday of Christmas 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation	4 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study @ church	5 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr	6 6:30pm Bible Study	7 9:30am Home School Group	1 Name of Jesus Office Closed	2
10 The Epiphany of our Lord 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation	11 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study @ church	12 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr 6:30pm Admin. Bd.	13 6:30pm Bible Study	14 9:30am Home School Group	15	16
17 The Baptism of Our Lord 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation	18 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study @ church Newsletter Deadline	19 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr 6:30pm Elders?	20 6:30pm Bible Study	21 9:30am Home School Group	22	23
24 3 rd Sunday a. Epiphany 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation	25 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study @ church	26 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr	27 6:30pm Bible Study	28 9:30am Home School Group	29	30
31 4 th Sunday a. Epiphany 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation						[C] = Communion

January 2021 Servant Schedule

Jan. 3	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Bill Kohn
	10:30 a.m.	ELDER: Rick Wetzel; READERS: Youth; Paul Martinal
Jan. 10	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Ron Gentz
	10:30 a.m.	ELDER: Jim Logan; READERS: Jennifer Sande, Jim Logan
Jan. 17	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: John Butler
	10:30 a.m.	ELDER: Rick Wetzel; READERS: Carol Herter, Rick Wetzel
Jan. 24	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Bill Kohn
	10:30 a.m.	ELDER: Jim Logan; READERS: Judy Theung, Jim Logan
Jan. 31	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Ron Gentz
	10:30 a.m.	ELDER: John Butler; READERS: Carol Herter, John Butler

Lord, be with us in 2021!