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The Messenger

January
2022

Pastor
The Rev. Paul Herter

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

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.

Share the Truth and Love of Christ!

Dear Ones Who are All New Creations in Christ,

As we enter another New – calendar – Year A.D. 2022 (Anno Domini = “In the Year of our Lord”), may the blessings of our LORD Jesus be with you all and be with you always!

Did you get everything you wanted on your Christmas wish list? Probably not. And that’s good because if everything we wanted came easy, we’d all be bored and spoiled. Come to think of it, it describes a lot of people, doesn’t it? I heard the news commentators say that the secular age we live in creates boredom and, as has been said before, “idle hands are the devil’s workshop.” You can see the results of boredom in many people’s lives since it often results in depression, illicit drug or alcohol use, criminal activity and even suicide! Since secularism offers nothing lasting, it cannot impart anything of real value. Beware! We Christians can be drawn into such a hopeless philosophy if we aren’t careful!

If there was the possibility of getting anything on my “Christmas wish list” that I truly desired and would be a good thing for everybody, it would probably be that government officials, the media and the health “experts” would have to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth – as goes the old courtroom oath. I think that if there had been a determination from the very beginning of the pandemic, for example, to be truthful and consistent in what was presented to the public that the country and our people as a whole would be in much better shape: both happier and healthier.

One of my favorite movies in connection with this concept is the old Jim Carrey movie, “Liar, Liar.” Now, I certainly don’t recommend this movie for children and probably many adults and most Christians would find a lot of it pretty disgusting. This is not an endorsement of the film, but I did find the concept to be intriguing, that is, that the Jim Carrey character has a son in the film who is constantly disappointed by his dad – a very busy lawyer – who constantly misses important events in his son’s life. On his birthday, the young son makes a wish that his dad would have to tell the truth about everything for one day. The outcomes, as you can imagine, are pretty hilarious! Ultimately, his dad realizes the importance of his family and, with the help of his friends, finally changes.

Even this secular movie has an implied moral: “tell the truth.” We Christians would add the emphasis of Holy Scripture: “speak the truth in love.” Of course, we cannot forget what our Lord Jesus taught His followers in Matthew 18 and elsewhere in Scripture, what I generalize as “rebuke privately and commend publicly.” The world and our old nature always tends to rebuke publicly and commend privately. Yes, there are times when it is necessary to rebuke publicly, but we tend to relish such times rather than seek peace and the fellow Christian’s improvement.

Well, let me wrap this up. Many, many thanks to those individuals, teams and work groups who helped get our busy December preparations and decorations done on time and beautifully as well! Our special thanks for the electrical work and much needed repairs accomplished by Trent McClain prior to Christmas!

Let us pray and work to make 2022 even better, God helping us!

God’s Peace, Joy, and Love to all, Pastor Paul

P.S. As usual, even though many in our congregation have their own challenges, financial and otherwise, we received several dozen cards and gifts from Hope congregation that spoke of your love and support! I know I speak on behalf of our Staff and faithful volunteers = May God continue to bless you for all you do!

Stewardship Corner

Stewards Living with Purpose

In the book of Psalms, King David wrote, *“The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me”* (Psalm 138:8). In spite of David’s sinful life and the difficulties he had with Saul and Absalom, the Lord fulfilled His purpose for David. Just as God had a purpose for David, so He has for us as well. Have you given much thought to what purpose God may have for your life? By grace, we understand that we were created for God’s purpose, not ours.

One important purpose God gives His people is to care for His creation and His people. We are given the honor to be His stewards. Stewards care for all that God entrusts to us according to His will. As His stewards, we understand that He is the creator and owner of all things. When we responsibly care for the earth and provide for His people both physically and spiritually, we honor God as His stewards.

God’s Word reminds us that by nature we are sinful fallen people who are spiritually dead and unable to accomplish the purpose that God has designed us to do. The Apostle Paul tells us that *“We once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us...made us alive together with Christ...”* (Ephesians 2:3-5). The only way we can do anything to please Him and to live with a God-pleasing purpose is to be recreated by the Holy Spirit and to be converted into new people in Christ (2 Corinthians 5).

As people of faith, our purpose is not to live for ourselves but for Jesus Who *“died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and was raised”* (2 Corinthians 5:15). In our lives as stewards, we can, with God’s help, put Him first in all things. *“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”* (1 Corinthians 10:31). When we serve, let us serve *“by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ”* (1 Peter 4:11).

Thomas Carlyle, an historian and author, wrote, *“The man without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder—a waif, a nothing a no man.”* We need purpose in order to have meaning for our lives. We are blessed because in Christ we have purpose for living. May we all thank God that He has given us faith and wisdom to understand that our purpose in life is to give Him glory, honor, and service.

2022 Administrative Board

Michael Vergiels, Congregational Chairman
Vikki Ritzert, Treasurer (until another is found)
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 –
Board Member, Property – Hans Jacobsson
Board Member, Worship – James Sheridan
Board Member, Stewardship – Sharron Sheridan

Please keep these leaders in your prayers. Please, also, prayerfully consider volunteering to serve in the areas of Maturity/Nurture and Outreach Board members or as our Treasurer. Sharron Sheridan will gladly provide you with the information you need to make your decision and to fill the office.

Thank You

The Staff of Hope Lutheran Church thanks the congregation for the special remembrances at Christmastime. Your thoughtfulness is very encouraging and inspiring. Thank you for your prayers, also! God bless you all!

Pastor Paul, Becky, Paul M., Mary,
Mike G., Jon, Paul T.

December 1, 2021

“Thank you to all my family and friends for their prayers, cards, gifts, phone calls, and visits. Thanks also to Pastor Paul for his visits and to Carol for her caring ways.

Thank you again. God bless you all.

Betty Prielipp”

Hope Women’s Annual Christmas Party Thanks!

Thank you to **Shannon Zeller** for hosting the Women’s Christmas Party. We appreciate your graciousness and hospitality. What a beautiful setting for all of us to get together. What a great time we had!

Happy New Year!

2022 Offering Envelopes

Our 2022 Offering Envelopes were put in your church mailbox for you to pick up in November. Please locate them and begin using them on January 1, 2022. You may recycle your unused 2021 offering envelopes.

Phone Directory Update

Now that we are back to worshipping together regularly in person, a new phone directory will actually be printed soon!! We would like to be sure we have everyone's current address, phone number, and email address. So if the Church Office does not have your contact information or you have moved, changed your phone number, changed your email address or want your email address listed for the first time, let the Church Office know by January 16, 2022. Thanks!

Hope Women in Mission

We will meet at **1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.** on Monday, January 10.

We will be writing notes to our college students to include with the gas gift card we will be sending them in February. As always, if you have an idea for an activity or a service project, bring it to our meeting.

As always, bring your MITES, especially since January is a Mite focus month.

Women's Day Retreat

January 22, 2022, from 9am – 3pm

Hosted by St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
2552 Bacon Rd., Hillsdale MI

Bible Study – "Our Hope & Future" by Donna Snow
Ingathering – Health & Beauty Items for Health Kits

Cost - \$10

Register by January 14

2022 Secret Sisters

The year begins at 1/1/2022 at 12:01 a.m. and ends at 12/31/2022 at 11:59 p.m. If you need assists on being sneaky, let Mary or Sharron know or another sneaky friend. Enjoy. It was a blast to find out who had who for 2021.

If during the year you find that you are unable to stay in touch with your Secret Sister to let her know you are thinking of and praying for her, let Mary or Sharron know. We will assist you.

Enduring Faith

Our Sunday morning Bible Classes, both adult and children, resumes using Concordia Publishing House's Enduring Faith curriculum in January. 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 January, we will be studying these lessons:

January 2 –

"A Judge Leads" [Gideon]
(Judges 7:1-23)

January 9 –

"A Prophet Serves" [Samuel]
(1 Samuel 3)

January 16 –

"A King Forever" [David]
(1 Samuel 16:1-13; 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 7:4-17)

January 23 –

"The King's Table" [Mephibosheth]
(2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13)

January 30 – Meets at 9:00 a.m. today.

TBA



**Sunday, September
25, 2022
Celebrating 50
Years of Hope!
Save the Date!**

Special Sunday Schedule

January 30, 2022

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

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

**11:45 – 1:30 p.m. – Faith, Food &
Fellowship**

Remember the Needy

The holidays are ending and extra donations are probably ending as well. The members of Hope Women in Mission have chosen this month and next to encourage the donation of food items for our local food pantries. Please bring your donation(s) in when you come to church throughout January and February. We will have a space set aside for these donations in the lobby.

We offer the following, which was posted on the internet, as food for thought:

“So, I spoke to people getting food at a food bank and here are some things I learned from those in need:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

In all the years I have donated food at the Holidays, I bought what I thought they wanted, but have never asked. I am glad I did. If you are helping Family this Christmas, maybe this can help you tailor it more. It does for me!

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.

Mission Grant Focus

As you put money in your Mite container this month, please say a prayer for Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries.

MOST Ministries supports Lutheran missionaries both in the United States and abroad with short-term mission teams from LWML Districts and LCMS congregations, with the knowledge that they are to “...go and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:19); and, that “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).

The physical and spiritual needs of nearly 10,000 people per year are being met through MOST Ministries' short-term mission teams, with each team having a specific plan to share the Gospel with every attendee, using witness materials. The host request for teams outnumber the number of team members we are able to recruit.

MOST Ministries hopes to establish a scholarship fund that will encourage LWML women and their friends who have not served on a mission team and are not currently involved in LWML to participate as a team member, so that we are able to fill our host requests.

MOST Ministries, a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, operates in such a way as to foster the mission and ministry of the church, providing activities in harmony with the Synod, and respecting the doctrine and practice of Synod at all times.

The LWML, meeting virtually in July 2020, granted the sum of \$25,000.00 to enable MOST Ministries to establish a scholarship fund, enabling 20 LWML members and 20 friends to serve in the mission field over the next two years, continue to provide for the physical needs and evangelize through short-term missions, making the love of Christ known through word and deed.

January Celebrations

Happy Birthday

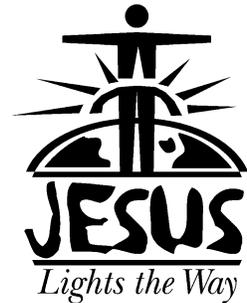
Joe Cortez	2
Barb Davis	4
Joann Wachter	5
Amanda Wetzel	6
Sharon Shulters	7
Bonnie Posten	8
Ben Martinal	12
Dene Minnema	12
James P. Sheridan	15
Tom Soltwisch	15
Ashley Wetzel Sancho	21
Eleanor Lorentz	27
Lisa Frison	30

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: family of: Dan Miller

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Myrna Sheldon	Margaret Parker	Maynard Howard
Patti Vergiels	Dave & Dee Weisenfelder	Chuck Presley
Les Howard (back surgery)	Marcia Albain (headaches)	Jerry Johnson (back)
Arleen Jacobsson (knee)	Bob & Joann Wachter	Stephanie Butler
Betty Prielipp	Dan Baumgartner	Mary Jane Hull
Lisa Krueger (surgery)	Annette Miller	COVID sufferers
Brad Housman (pain)	Ed Carr	Sarah Holmes' Mother
Rev. Daryl Etheridge	Richard Sande	Marti Hudelston
Tim Allwardt (crushed foot)	Jada Korsman	Kristie Smith (eye issues)
Jon Willett	John Parlier	Mike Weisenfelder
Bob Beagle	Jeff Moyer (stroke)	Micheal Thiel
Bill & Jeanie Landry	Don Smith, Jr.	Mary Ellen Moyer
Ralph & Wanda Saylor	Casey Muck (concussion)	Norma Fidler
Melissa Morton (stroke)	Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)	Ryan Bachman
Lisa Cable (cancer)	Denver Parker (cancer)	Josh Etheridge (leukemia)
Allison Oliver (cancer)	Sheri Falzone (cancer)	Christina Zeller (cancer)
Chuck Marine (cancer)	Doug Thumm (cancer)	Gregg Woods (cancer)
L. J. Jones (cancer)	Dale Chase (cancer)	Andrew Frank (cancer)
Shannon (cancer)	David Baumgartner (cancer)	Kelsey (cancer)

Our Prayers

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 2 nd Sunday of Christmas 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 3:30pm Confirmation	3 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study @ church	4	5 6:30pm Bible Study	6	7	1 Name of Jesus 8
9 The Epiphany of our Lord 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 11:45am Yth Gathering 3:30pm Confirmation	10 1pm/6:30pm Hope Women 6:30pm Elders	11 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr 6:30pm Admin. Bd.	12 6:30pm Bible Study	13	14	15
16 The Baptism of Our Lord 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 3:30pm Confirmation	17 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study @ church Newsletter Deadline	18 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr	19 6:30pm Bible Study	20	21	22 9am Women's Day Retreat @ St. Paul, Hillsdale
23 3 rd Sunday a. Epiphany 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 3:30pm Confirmation 5:00 – 7:00pm Youth	24 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study @ church	25 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr	26 6:30pm Bible Study	27	28	29
30 4 th Sunday a. Epiphany 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship [C] 11:45am Faith, Food, Fellowship 3:30pm Confirmation	31					[C] = Communion

January 2022 Servant Schedule

- Jan. 2** 9:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Jim Logan; **READERS:** Youth; Jim Logan
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- Jan. 9** 9:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Bill Kohn; **READERS:** Jennifer Sande, Bill Kohn
-
- Jan. 16** 9:00 a.m. **ELDER:** John Butler; **READERS:** Carol Herter, John Butler
-
- Jan. 23** 9:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Ron Gentz; **READERS:** Sue Muck, Ron Gentz
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- Jan. 30** 10:30 a.m. **ELDER:** Rick Wetzel; **READERS:** Judy Theung, Rick Wetzel

Lord, be with us in 2022!