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The Messenger

January
2023

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.

Let's Actively Share God's Love!

Happy New Year – Dear Ones in Christ Jesus!

May the grace and mercy of God in Jesus Christ our Lord continue to bless us with the most precious of gifts: the forgiveness of our sins, life and salvation! And may the Christian virtues of faith, hope and love be more fully formed in us by the power of the Holy Spirit with each passing day!

Last October, Carol and I attended the Michigan District All Pastors Conference at Boyne Mountain in northern Michigan. There were several hundred pastors and their wives and many families as well present for the conference. It was an excellent conference with three great speakers! The conference itself was both uplifting and sobering as we addressed the cultural changes and influences that more and more challenge us as the Church and as individual Christians.

In light of these challenges, how should we as the Church respond? One speaker put it rather succinctly this way: “In every circumstance, the Church must be the Church!” Our Calling to serve in Christ’s Mission and Ministry remains the same: we must continue to proclaim the Saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone and show God’s Love in practical ways to everyone until Christ Returns or God calls us Home.

With that in mind, let us consider some of those major cultural and societal challenges we face and think of ways we can respond to them as God’s people.

With millions of people pouring over our nation’s southern border, most of them, I imagine, are not speakers of English or at least do not know the language very well. Could Hope offer training in English as a second language?

With many of our schools, both public and private and even parochial, focusing on social and gender issues over teaching basic reading, writing, and arithmetic; could we offer our facilities as a setting for more homeschooling class gatherings?

With the new political realities in Michigan (and throughout the nation for that matter) that are determined to achieve radical climate change goals, and with runaway inflation especially affecting the poor, can we increase our benevolence giving to help offset costs of electricity and food?

With Proposal Three being adopted by Michigan voters last fall, can we support pregnant mothers along with their children and families in greater ways through local organizations like the Care Pregnancy Center (CPC) in Adrian?

It’s obvious to me that whether these or other community service ideas (alongside of proclaiming the gospel) would be adopted, they would need dedicated leadership to make it work. If any of these ideas catch your vision, then let us talk about how they might be implemented as one of our ministries or service projects here at Hope. Alternatively, if one of your own ideas address a need that hasn’t been discussed here, let’s talk about it.

Any and all of these ideas should be directed by God’s Word and covered in Prayer in order for the Lord to bless it! And in the meantime, let us continue to gather for worship, Bible study, prayer, and Christian support of one another as members and friends of Hope Lutheran Church.

God bless us and make us effective in His work during 2023!

Pastor Paul



Stewardship Corner

Privileged to be God's Stewards

God has called us to be His stewards (Genesis 1:28; 2:15), and He equips us as His stewards to use our time, talents, and resources faithfully for His purposes. Because stewardship is about serving, enabling, taking care of, funding, helping, and bringing hope and life to all, we should seek to have a better understanding of what it means to be faithful stewards in God's kingdom. Through faith, we become God's stewards, and our deeds of stewardship come from being stewards. Stewardship is about receiving God's blessings thankfully, managing them faithfully, and giving them generously. From the LCMS Board of Stewardship we read, "Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the Church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes."

In spite of our weaknesses and unworthiness, God honors us with the privilege and responsibility to be stewards of all that He entrusts to our care. *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace"* (1 Peter 4:10). Growing in a biblical understanding of Christian stewardship is a continuing process. By our own strength, it is impossible for us to be God-pleasing stewards. In order to be God's stewards, we need the Holy Spirit to change our hearts. The Holy Spirit shapes and molds us through a lifelong process of sanctification so we can become trustworthy stewards. With new hearts, we embrace our role as God's stewards. We become new people who are God-centered rather than self-centered. We acknowledge that God owns, controls, and sustains all things. *"The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein"* (Psalm 24:1). God not only calls us to be His stewards, He equips us to accomplish the work that He has prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 4:10).

Being a steward is a relational concept. We do not live in isolation. Our primary relationship is with God Who has created and redeemed us through Jesus. We live to love and support our neighbors, and we want them to know Jesus as we do. As God's stewards, we live in relationship with creation, so we are not to misuse the earth, the seas, or the air.

As God's stewards, it is a mistake to view stewardship as only relating to managing and giving money. As we carry out our responsibilities as God's stewards, it involves the use of money, but it is much more. God's Word tells us that our stewardship involves all of life. Through faith, we believe that God is the creator, owner, and sustainer of all things, and He has given us the wonderful privilege of being His stewards.

2023 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 – Darlene Fink
Board Member, Ministry – Sue Muck
Board Member, Outreach – Judy Theung
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 assist these leaders in their areas of responsibility.

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.

Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever. Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the LORD or fully declare His praise? Blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right.

Psalm 106:1-3 (NIV)

Happy New Year!



2023 Offering Envelopes

Our 2023 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, 2023. You may recycle your unused 2022 offering envelopes.

Phone Directory Update

It is past time that a new phone directory is printed! 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, 2023. Thanks!

Christian Sympathies

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Dave Weisenfelder, who died December 28. A memorial service will be held at Hope at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, January 14, 2023. We especially ask God's comfort upon Dave's wife, Dee.

We will miss Dave. We grieve, but we know that Dave is now among the "great crowd of witnesses" cheering us on as we run our own race of faith.



Hope Women in Mission

Watch and listen for announcements on the next meeting of Hope Women in Mission. Our plans are uncertain at the time of printing this newsletter.

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

2023 Secret Sisters

The year begins at 1/1/2023 at 12:01 a.m. and ends at 12/31/2023 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 2022.

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 not in Confirmation, resume 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 1 –
"A Merciful Substitute" [Abraham & Isaac]
(Genesis 22:1-19)
- January 8 –
"A Servant's Mission" [Isaac & Rebekah]
(Genesis 24:1-4, 10-28, 50-67)
- January 15 –
"Twin Troubles" [Esau & Jacob]
(Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-45)
- January 22 –
"A Family Grows" [Jacob's Family]
(Genesis 29:1-30)
- January 29 – Meets at 9:00 a.m. today.
"A Dreamer Rises" [Joseph]
(Genesis 39:20-23; 41:9-49)

Prayer Time

Sunday, January 8, 2023
Lunch at Noon with Prayer Time
following
Join us!

Special Sunday Schedule

January 29, 2023

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 (Baptism emphasis)

The Joy in Christ

New mercies, new blessings, new light on the way,
New courage, new hope, new strength for each day;
New wine in the chalice, new altars to raise;
New fruits for thy Master, new garments of praise;
New gifts from His treasures, smiles from His face,
New streams from the fountain of infinite grace,
New stars for thy crown, and new tokens of love,
New gleams of the glory that awaits thee above;
New light of His countenance, full and unpriced –
All this be thy joy of the new year in Christ!

Concordia & St. John's Parish
S. Haven, MN

Managing Time

If we squander time, we forego one of God's greatest gifts. Time is short, important, and uncertain, so we need to be reminded that:

The clock of time is wound but once,
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop,
At late or early hour.
Now is the only time you own.
Live—love—toil with a will.
Place no faith in "tomorrow,"
The clock may then be still.

(Author Unknown)

My Name is I AM

I was regretting the past and fearing the future.
Suddenly my Lord was speaking: "My Name is I AM."

He paused. I waited. He continued:

"When you live in the past with its mistakes and regrets, it is hard. I am not there. My Name is not I WAS.

"When you live in the future, with its problems and fears, it is hard. I am not there. My Name is not I WILL BE.

"When you live in this moment, it is not hard. I am here. My Name is I AM."

-Helen Mallicoat-

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 St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf.

Ninety-eight percent of deaf people and their families do not believe in Jesus.

Scripture says in Proverbs 22:6, "*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.*" St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf exists to give the best education in American Sign Language (ASL) and English and to teach the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to future generations.

The cost of a Christian Education can take a toll on a family's finances in general, but with a deaf student's education, there is often a need for additional support from time to time to ensure that the student is not uprooted and stays grounded in the Lutheran faith.

Most often the cost of tuition is the deciding factor in whether or not a child has the opportunity to receive a Christian education. St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf is the only Lutheran Deaf school in Michigan. Some parents drive great distances for their child to attend St. Martin.

Scholarships to help deaf students continue their learning in a Christian school will enable these children to grow in the faith and to go into the world sharing the good news of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

The LWML, meeting in Frankenmuth in July 2022, granted the sum of \$25,000.00 to enable and assist families with deaf children to receive a Christian education by offering tuition assistance through scholarships.

We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks, for Your Name is near; men tell of Your wonderful deeds.

You say, "I choose the appointed time; it is I Who judge uprightly.

Psalm 75:1-2 (NIV)

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 Wing	12
James P. Sheridan	15
Tom Soltwisch	15
Ashley Wetzel Sancho	21
Eleanor Lorentz	27
Lisa Frison	30

Baptismal Anniversaries

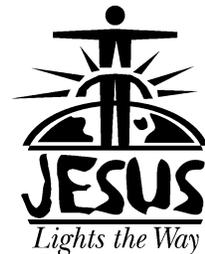
Hans Jacobsson	1
Becky Martinal	1
Judy Theung	4
Zoe Krueger	11
Paul Martinal	11
Sherrell Hofbauer	13
Kelsey Krueger	15
Dalton Sancho	18
Eric Holmes	24
Bonnie Posten	24
Sharron Sheridan	28
Amanda Wetzel	30

Wedding Anniversaries

David & Kathy Brevoort 29

CONGRATULATIONS...

...to David & Kathy, on their 40th wedding anniversary on the 29th!



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: Dave Weisenfelder

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Myrna Sheldon	Margaret Parker	Maynard Howard
Mike & Patti Vergiels	Dee Weisenfelder	Chuck & Ruth Presley
Jim Hill	Marcia Albain (headaches)	Dick Kuntz
Arleen Jacobsson	Bob & Joann Wachter	Jim Gulliksen (surgery)
Judy Theung (surgery)	Sharron Sheridan (surgery)	Mike Griffith (eyes)
Marnella Lafferty (knee)	Les Howard	Wayne Soltwisch
Danielle Hofbauer (foot)	Sherrell Hofbauer	Stephanie Butler
Mary Jane Hull	Jack Armstrong	Allen & Stephen Palmiter
Lori Jones	Jackie Giroux	Briahna Neal
Thomas Groh	Ezra Smith	Sarah Holmes' Mother
Rev. Daryl Etheridge	Richard Sande	Marti Hudelston
Mary Ellen Moyer	Jada Korsman	Rev. Joe Adams
Jon Willett	John Parlier	Mike Weisenfelder
Bob Beagle	Ed Carr	Micheal Thiel
Ralph & Wanda Saylor	Casey Muck (concusion)	Norma Fidler
Melissa Morton (stroke)	Jeff Moyer (stroke)	Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)
Patsy Broge (cancer)	Pat Añorga (cancer)	Kathy Sparks (cancer)
Ed Burch (cancer)	Dan Smith (cancer)	Kathy Austin (cancer)
Mary Caroline (cancer)	Lisa Cable (cancer)	Denver Parker (cancer)

HOPE
prayers

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Name of Jesus 10:30am New Year's Day Worship [C] NO Bible Class today	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 The Epiphany of our Lord 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class & Confirmation 12pm Lunch & Prayer Time	9 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	10 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr 6:30pm Elders	11 6:30pm Bible Study	12	13	14 11am Weisenfelder Memorial Service
15 The Baptism of Our Lord 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class & Confirmation Noon – 2pm Youth	16 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	17 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr	18 6:30pm Bible Study	19 4pm Admin. Bd.	20	21
22 Sanctity of Life Sunday 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class & Confirmation	23 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study Newsletter Deadline	24 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr	25 6:30pm Bible Study	26	27	28
29 4 th Sunday a. Epiphany 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship [C] 11:45am Faith, Food, Fellowship	30	31 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr				[C] = Communion

January 2023 Servant Schedule

Jan. 1	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Rick Wetzel; READER: Rick Wetzel; USHERS: Tom & Jacob Sande; COMMUNION: Hilda Cortez; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:
Jan. 8	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Jim Logan; READERS: Jennifer Sande, Jim Logan; USHERS: James P. Sheridan; COMMUNION: The Sande Family; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:
Jan. 15	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Ron Gentz; READERS: Youth, Ron Gentz; USHERS: James P. Sheridan; COMMUNION: Sue Muck, Sara Hackney; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:
Jan. 22	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Bill Kohn; READERS: Sue Muck, Bill Kohn; USHERS: Tom & Jacob Sande; COMMUNION: Mike & Darlene Fink; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:
Jan. 29	10:30 a.m.	ELDER: John Butler; READERS: Carol Herter, John Butler; USHERS: James P. Sheridan; COMMUNION: Jim & Kay Logan; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:

Lord, be with us in 2023!