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The Messenger

July
2019

Pastor

The Rev. Paul Herter

Youth/Family Life

Becky Martinal, DCE

Worship

Sundays

8:30 (Classic Praise)

11:00 a.m. (New Song)

Bible Study

Sundays

10:00 a.m. (all ages)

Wednesdays

Check with study leaders

Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Holiness

Dear Fellow Citizens of Heaven and of the United States of America,

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Excerpt from “The Declaration of Independence” – ratified by Second Continental Congress, July 4, 1776

Because even the best human governments tend toward authoritarian control of the people at the least and some form of tyranny at the worst, the authors of our U.S. Constitution restricted government power via the Bill of Rights. As I have noted before and again here, the things that are mentioned first are the things that matter most. The very first Freedom included in our First Amendment is the Freedom of Religion (not freedom from religion – in other words, you are free to practice religion or not, but you do not have the right to force another person to practice your non-religion.)

Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness (pursuit of property/wealth) = major human rights based on equality in creation and granted/endowed by our Creator (God). How well are we living up to these ideals? Amazingly and tragically – for the American Republic – we have seen, in our time, human life devalued to the extent that babies in the womb (and even out of the womb!) may be killed at any stage of pregnancy. Also, there are those in government and other important institutions who seek to limit our liberties and stifle free speech (freedom of speech also enshrined in the First Amendment.) And the pursuit of happiness/wealth: leading political leaders and candidates rail against capitalism and the free market, all the while making themselves rich via political power!

Notice that the title of my article is “life, liberty and the pursuit of holiness.” Based on God’s Word, we acknowledge that life is a gift from God (indeed, human life is the Crown of the Lord’s Creation) and the spiritual/eternal life is a gift from God. Liberty (under the Rule of Law) is a gift from God. And Holiness is a goal and spiritual process empowered by God in the lives of His people by His Word!

French writer Alexis de Tocqueville, after visiting America in 1831, said, “I sought for the greatness of the United States in her commodious harbors, her ample rivers, her fertile fields, and boundless forests and it was not there. I sought for it in her rich mines, her vast world commerce, her public school system, and in her institutions of higher learning and it was not there. I looked for it in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great!”

If we want to make America truly great again, it must begin in the Church and be renewed in faith and practice among us as Christians.

May the Lord Bless His Church and may God bless America!

Pastor Paul

Stewardship Corner

Glorifying God with Our Time

It seems that, as we grow older, we can better understand what James was saying in chapter four, verse 14: *"For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes."* Time does go by quickly, especially as we age. James is telling us that, in the span of eternity, our time on earth is rather insignificant. We are a mere dot on the calendar of time.

In reading God's Word, it is clear, however, that God is more interested in what we do with our time than the length of time that He gives us. As God's children, our focus shouldn't be on asking God for longer lives, but, rather, we should be more interested in asking Him and ourselves the question: "What can I do with my time that will please Him and give Him the glory that He deserves?" First and foremost, God wants us to spend our time in serving and glorifying Him. In speaking to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul wrote, *"So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God"* (1 Corinthians 10:31). We can give God glory by dedicating our daily tasks to Him. Our hands and feet can be doing routine and mundane things, but our hearts and minds can be focused on the Lord. To the Colossians Paul wrote, *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men"* (Colossians 3:23). In all that we do, God is to be part of our activities.

Paul exhorted the people in Philippi to *"...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God Who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure"* (Philippians 2:12-13). God equips and enables us through the working of the Holy Spirit to use our time in doing His will. We demonstrate God's grace at work within us as we do His will by serving Him through serving others.

God wants us to make the most of our time. In the words of the psalmist, we pray *"So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom"* (Psalm 90:12). With God's wisdom, we can use well the time God has given us. As Paul wrote, *"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil"* (Ephesians 5:15-16). By wisely using our time to the glory and honor of God, we can live this life abundantly.

May 2019 Stewardship Summary

Average Church Attendance: 102
Average Holy Communion Attendance: 43
Education Hour - Adults & Youth: 31; Middlers & Elementary: 7.5;

Church Extension Fund

Practice Stewardship When You Invest

"Stewardship" is a familiar word when talking about giving. But it's also appropriate to use when talking about how we save and invest for future needs. Church Extension Fund offers a great way to manage some of your funds through investments that not only produce interest income for your needs, but also help build new churches and schools. Call 800-242-3944 for more information.

(The information provided here is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy CEF securities. The offering of CEF securities is made solely by our Offering Circular. CEF will offer and sell our securities only in states where authorized. The securities are subject to certain risk factors as described in our Offering Circular. CEF investments are not insured by the FDIC, SIPC, or any other governmental agency.)

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



"If you hold to My teaching,
you are really My disciples. Then
you will know the truth, and the truth
will set you free."
John 8:31b-32

"Blessed is the nation
whose God is the LORD."
Psalm 33:12

Thank You for Your Help

Thank you to all who helped deliver Meals on Wheels during Hope's turn to assist the Senior Center in getting meals to those who are unable to prepare their own because of health.



"Dear friends,

Our hearts are overflowing with the love we have felt from all of you. Thank you for your words of comfort, hugs and vigil of prayers for our Sarah. Those prayers were answered. Sarah is no longer in pain and suffering. She now rests in the loving and welcoming arms of our heavenly Father. We look forward to our reunion.

We do ask for continued prayers for Sarah's husband Chad and for her daughter Kayleen. We thank God for blessing us with you dear friends (family) at Hope – and especially Pastor Paul.

With love,
Joann and Bob Wachter"



Do You Like Baseball?

Mudhens Baseball – Be a part of a group from Hope attending a Toledo Mudhens baseball game on Saturday, August 10. The game starts at 7:00 p.m. There will be fireworks after the game. Cost is \$14 for game and \$8 for food voucher. There is a sign-up sheet in the church lobby. To get more information, talk to Mike Vergiels, 517-662-0790.

Check for Hope's Youth's participation at this year's Lenawee County Fair – July 21-27!



ADULTS: Just for you! Hope will be hosting a Vacation Bible School for Adults, Sunday, July 28 – Thursday, August 1. We'll meet from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. each night. The theme is: Fusion: Water.

Fusion – the merging of diverse, distinct, or separate elements into a unified whole. Fusion is a word that speaks of energy and excitement.

God's Word is filled with fusion. The Old Testament bears many hints of events to come in the New Testament, yet we often miss the connection.

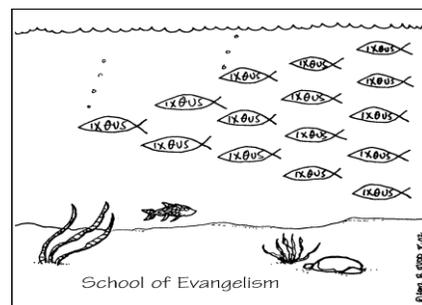
In our study we will observe often water finds its way into Old Testament stories, especially stories about how God is at work to bless or save His people.

This study is written by Chad Bird and published by Concordia Publishing House (our Synod's publishing house).

***This should be a great study!
See you July 28 – August 1,
from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.!***

Three Things

I know three things must ever be
To keep a nation strong and free:
One is a hearthstone bright and dear
With busy, happy loved ones near;
One is a ready heart and hand
To love and serve and keep the land;
One is a worn and beaten way
To where the people go to pray.
So long as these are kept alive
Nation and people will survive.
God keep them, always, everywhere –
The hearth, the flag, the place of prayer.



July is Mite Month

We bring in the coins and folding money we've been saving in our mite containers and dedicate them to the Lord's service during July. You may bring your mites to church and place them on Mary Martinal's office desk or in her mailbox. Please mark these as mites. If you would like a mite container, please talk to Mary or to Sharron Sheridan.

Dedicated Mites at Work

What a blessed privilege we have – to assist in mission work by saving our loose change (and currency) in our mite containers. This is one simple way to help spread God's kingdom, something everyone can do! During July we bring in our mites and dedicated them to the Lord's service.

This month as you put money into your mite container, say a prayer for the training of Female Students studying for Professional Church Work.

Miriam, Huldah, Esther, Lydia, and others were leaders. What gifts God gave them to serve! He gives us such gifts as well.

Deaconess, teacher, director of education, music leader – do we have a need for these individuals? God has created men and women in a way that we have different gifts – yet the gifts of both are necessary for the growth of His kingdom. We teach the ways of our Lord in our homes – yet our children and youth are constantly hearing other viewpoints in school and as they are in the world.

We have been blessed with the opportunity to provide some support, with our mites, women called by God to serve in His kingdom as they prepare for that service.

The delegates at the 2016 Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention in Port Huron, voted the sum of \$20,000 to fund scholarships for female students preparing for full-time church work at our Synodical colleges.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You for the gift of helping to spread the Gospel by supporting those who work in the mission field around us every day with the skills not only to provide basic assistance but to share Your Gospel. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



2019 LWML Convention

Ladies from all over the United States gathered at the Mobile Convention Center in Mobile, Alabama, for the 38th

Biennial LWML Convention June 20-23. What an experience it was to travel there with almost 50 other ladies in a comfy motor-coach (not a bus!!). What an experience it was to celebrate the Lord with almost 3,000 believers and to take in all the sessions and exhibits!

The Mission Goal for the 2019-2021 biennium is \$2.1 Million! This goal will, by the grace of God, fund these 21 mission grants through our "mites:"

1. Water & the Word for Rural Schools in Kenya - \$80,000.
2. Teach Me too—Preschoolers with Learning Needs in Austin (LSEM) - \$100,000
3. Mission Outreach for At-Risk Young Women in Africa - \$100,000
4. God's Grace for This Generation (LAMP) - \$100,000
5. God's Word Changes Everything (LBT) - \$95,000
6. Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus for Guatemala - \$100,000
7. Restoring Hope for Detroit Children & Families - \$100,000
8. Lights for Christ Scholarships for Guatemala - \$95,000
9. Wind River Indian Reservation Transportation at Fort Washakie in Wyoming - \$40,000
10. Ministry in Motion at Trinity in Mobile, AL - \$58,000
11. Touching the Living Word (LBW) - \$100,000
12. Women's Witness & Mercy Asia—Mission Central - \$100,000
13. Digital Media Development (LFL) - \$30,000
14. Hope & Healing Hub of Downtown Lincoln, NE - \$50,000
15. Pre- & Post-Seminary Training for Local Church Workers in Africa - \$62,650
16. Preparing Leaders for Tomorrow (LCMS School Ministries) - \$80,000
17. Christ for You, Anytime, Anywhere (KFUO Radio) - \$60,000
18. Sri Lanka Multipurpose Building Construction - \$50,000
19. Making Jesus Known in the U.S. Ethnic Communities at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis MO - \$100,000
20. Music Outreach, Classes, & Resources on the Border in El Paso, TX - \$98,400
21. LCMS Deaconess Ministry (LCMS Office of International Mission) - \$39,523

You are the face of LWML!

July Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Kay Logan	3
Lowell Oberhaus	3
Mary Jane Hull	5
Dalton Sancho	5
Bill Wrase	7
Janice Bilkey	9
Tom Sande	9
James Logan	12
Liam Sande	20
Delight Sieler	20
Patti Vergiels	20
Otto Bilkey	21
Rachel Teske	25
Gerald Johnson	30

Baptismal Anniversaries

Fred Sprague	1
Bob Stevenson	2
Jacob Sande	6
Madeline Sande	6
Samantha Sande	6
Tom Sande	6
Katherine Fowler	14
Vikki Ritzert	15
Maddix Stevens	15
Cambria Stevens	19
Harmonie Wetzel Roman	30

Wedding Anniversaries

Jonathan & Heidi Henzi	3
Otto & Janice Bilkey	6
Lowell & Linda Oberhaus	8
Chuck & Ruth Presley	8
Mike & Patti Vergiels	21
Ron & Sharon Shulters	26
John & Judy Parros	30

CONGRATULATIONS!...

... to Chuck & Ruth, on their 5th anniversary on July 8.

HOPE PRAYERS

We Pray This Month:

For the Nations of the world for peace and healing from her troubles

For Our Nation –

that God would provide comfort and support to all who have suffered loss

that God would guide our local officials & school districts, in the decisions to be made
that God would guide and protect our military wherever they are serving.

For His Church –

that God would strengthen and protect all His people and move them to witness boldly

For Hope –

that God would guide our Administrative Board and raise godly leaders to assist us

that God would bless and grow our Sunday School, our congregation, our outreach efforts,
our Youth

For those who grieve: families of Gregg Hopkins, Kurt Sieler

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Myrna Sheldon

DeLight Sieler

Ron & Dianne Gentz

Helen Bendes (arthritis)

Dave & Dee Weisenfelder

Margaret Parker

Bonnie Posten (eyes, wrist)

Patti Vergiels

Maynard Howard

Ruth Lamley (shoulder)

Mike Posten (leg)

Tricia Moyer-Fowler

Dorothy Parker

Sandy Houck

Les & Sue Howard

Sherrell Hofbauer (knee)

Stephanie Butler (travel)

Jutta Gross

Sue Johnson

Jim Hill (Parkinson's)

Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)

Kristie Smith (eye issues)

Jada Korsman

Matt Zavada

Jaina Walker (broken pelvis)

Stephanie Votke (neck)

Linda Hall

Jaxon Stanley (not growing)

LeAnn James (heart)

Ralph Saylor (foot)

Eric Montroy (needs new liver)

Larry & Betty Bendes

Adam Bartek (dialysis)

Kimberly Balowski

Marti Hudelston

Dianne Cottrill

Casey Muck

Bill & Jeanie Landry

Cindy Bendes Carr

Jeremiah Smith (back)

Christian Falzone

Alan Garrison

L. J. Jones (cancer)

Dale Chase (cancer)

Andrew Frank (cancer)

Wanda Allen (cancer)

David Baumgartner (cancer)

Steve McRobert (cancer)

Kenny Cable (cancer)

Mark Garcia (cancer)

Sherry Williams (cancer)

George MacBlaine (cancer)

Jim Barancin (cancer)

Christie Lemley (cancer)

Gregg Woods (cancer)

Florence Hagerman (cancer)

Tom Salbut (cancer)

July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Office Closed	5	6
<i>God Bless America</i>						
7 4 th Sunday a. Pentecost 8:30am Classic Praise [C] 10am Education Hour 11:00am New Song	8	9 6:30pm Elders	10 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm Adult Study	14	12	13
National Youth Gathering! July 10 - 16						
14 5 th Sunday a. Pentecost 8:30am Classic Praise 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song [C]	15 6:30pm Admin Bd. Newsletter Deadline	16	17 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm Adult Study	18	19	20
21 6 th Sunday a. Pentecost 8:30am Classic Praise [C] 10am Education Hour 11:00am New Song	22	23	24 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm Adult Study	25	26	27
Lenawee County Fair						
28 7 th Sunday a. Pentecost 8:30am Classic Praise 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song [C] 4pm Prayer Time	29	30	31 10am Ladies Study			[C] = Communion
VBS for Adults! - July 28 – August 1 - 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.						

July 2019 Servant Schedule

USHERS: 8:30 a.m. July Jim Logan, Jeremy Filber, Judy Theung
11:00 a.m. July 7 & 21: Rick Wetzel, Jon Henzi, Tom Sande
11:00 a.m. July 14 & 28: Otto Bilkey, James P. Sheridan

July 7 8:30 a.m. **ELDER:** John Butler; **ELDER ASSISTANT:** Jerry Johnson; **LITURGY ASSISTANT:** John Butler;
READER: Sue Muck; **COMMUNION:** Jerry & Phyllis Johnson
11:00 a.m. **READERS:** Youth & Jon Henzi

July 14 8:30 a.m. **ELDER:** Bill Kohn; **LITURGY ASSISTANT:** Bill Kohn; **READER:** Judy Parros;
11:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Jim Logan; **COMMUNION ASS'T:** Otto Bilkey; **READERS:** Helen Bendes; Mike Vergiels;
COMMUNION: the Sande Family

July 21 8:30 a.m. **ELDER:** Bill Kohn; **ELDER ASSISTANT:** Hans Jacobsson; **LITURGY ASSISTANT:** Dick Kuntz;
READER: Dee Weisenfelder; **COMMUNION:** Hans & Arleen Jacobsson
11:00 a.m. **READERS:** envoy

July 28 8:30 a.m. **ELDER:** John Butler; **LITURGY ASSISTANT:** Jerry Johnson; **READER:** Hilda Cortez
11:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Rick Wetzel; **COMMUNION ASS'T:** Dale Martinal; **READERS:** Carol Herter; Rick Wetzel;
COMMUNION: Kathy Beekel