



5625 W. US Hwy. 223
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-4317
www.hopeadrian.org
E-mail: hopecms@tc3net.com

The Messenger

March
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

The Foolishness of Man

Dear Ones in Christ Jesus,

God's Word teaches us that all people are made in the image of God. Throughout the Bible, all people, all humankind, all human beings from conception in their mother's womb to death are regarded as ONE HUMAN RACE! Every ethnic group and language – since Babel in Genesis 11 and until eternity pictured in Revelation 7 – remain precious to God! Since the Fall, recorded in Genesis 3, all humans are born into sin and all who are baptized are redeemed in Christ!

The Apostle Paul's message to the Council in Athens (Acts 17:24-31) proclaims: "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth... He himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man (ONE BLOOD) He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands."

(The Apostle Paul goes on to correct the Athenians' foolish religious beliefs, including the evolutionary-type belief that the Greeks "sprang from the earth" and were superior to all others. Prejudice and "racism" have been around a long time!)

"In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent. For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the Man (Jesus Christ) He has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising Him (Jesus Christ) from the dead."

The holy writer to the New Testament Jewish believers affirms this teaching of God's Word:

"But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone... Both the One who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters... Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil... For this reason He (Jesus) had to be made like them, FULLY HUMAN IN EVERY WAY,... that He might make atonement for the sins of the people." (From Hebrews 2:9-18. Note my emphases above.)

Based upon what you hear and read every day, what would you say is regarded as the greatest sin in our society today? Some might say "murder" and, indeed, in Genesis 9:6, God regards murder above other sins. Yes, murder is very terrible, but in our Nation today, abortion on demand – the murder of unborn children – is approved of, promoted and even funded through our taxes! In New York State, the Governor signed a Law legalizing the killing of infants right up to the point of birth (accompanied by a standing ovation of the legislature!) and in Virginia, their Governor (a former pediatrician!), talked openly and calmly about deciding WHETHER A NEWBORN CHILD SHOULD BE 'EXECUTED' based upon the decision of the mother and her doctor!

Here's what I think, based upon the constant media drumbeat, the greatest sin in our society today is: RACISM (followed closely by any other 'media-approved' social sin). As Christians, we do regard prejudice and bigotry as sinful. Racism, however, is not a Biblical construct; Racism is actually an evolutionary construct. Whenever any ethnic or 'racial' group or individual is regarded as 'sub-human' and treated as inferior, it plays into evolutionary theory which sees various people-groups that way because of their supposed origins. Case in point: some people

(continued on page 2)

Stewardship Corner

Building Relationships

Relationships need to be built; they don't just happen. Even in families where blood relationships exist, emotional relationships must be built. How do we go about doing that? What are the criteria? Let's look to the master of relationships: our Lord Jesus.

Jesus, the incarnate Christ, lived in a relationship with His earthly family. In the Gospel of Luke, we are told that, when His parents became separated from their son on the return from Jerusalem where they had attended the Feast of the Passover, they were distraught. When they were reunited, Mary asked, "Son, why have You treated us so?" He gave His well-known reply: "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Then, we're told, "He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them...And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:48-52). The Son of God, the Savior of the World, lived in obedient relationship with the earthly parents His Heavenly Father gave Him.

It is in the early days of His ministry that Jesus starts gathering to Himself His disciples, the Twelve who would sleep at His side, share their food with Him, endure the variances in the weather (as they were often outdoors), hear and try to understand His words, and seek to emulate Him, their Rabbi and Master. From Jesus we learn about being stewards of relationships. The criteria include quality time together, the opening of hearts to one another, trust and forgiveness, and interdependence.

Just as He called His disciples into relationship with Himself, so He initiates that closeness with us. He calls us with His Gospel words, "Come to Me...and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). He invites us, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). He abides with us (John 15:4); He shares His Heavenly food with us (Matthew 26:26-28); He speaks to us by His Word, Jesus Himself, and through His called servants (Hebrews 1:1-2); He presents us to His Father as holy in His sight (Colossians 1:22).

Secure, then, in our relationship with Jesus, we come to understand both our identity and purpose as His stewards. Equipped by His Word and empowered by His transforming love, our stewardship is no longer limited to specific acts occurring here and there but encompasses our entire lives. With a growing awareness of Christ's redeeming love, we are motivated to express our faith by the way we live our lives.

From Jesus we learn about being stewards of relationships.

Pastor's Article, cont.

groups are seen as closer in origin to apes and monkeys than others. Even in certain religious cults, like the Mormons, who have (up until 1969) regarded light skinned people to be blessed and dark skinned people to be cursed.

How stupid all this is! Even from a scientific point of view, skin color is less than 2% of all human physical characteristics! ("Vote for Science")

Behind the scenes, Planned Parenthood and other abortionists kill more dark skinned babies as a percentage of population than light skinned babies. So, could we call abortion a race-based holocaust? Something to think about.

Pray for our Country!

Pastor Paul

A "Hive" for Workers

God's house is abuzz with workers! One way to become a worker in God's house and to have a part in building His Church is investing in Church Extension Fund. Consider making an investment today. For more information, contact (Congregation Representative Name and telephone number) or call 800-242-3944. (This does not constitute an offer to sell or a request to buy. The offer is made solely by CEF's Offering Circular.)



Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits - Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.

Psalms 103:2-3 (NIV)

January 2019 Stewardship Summary

Average Church Attendance: 78

Average Holy Communion Attendance: 33

Education Hour - Adults & Youth: 27; Confirmation & Elementary: 7



Daylight Savings Time begins the 2nd Sunday in March – March 10, 2019 - and will end the 1st Sunday in November – November 3, 2019. What does this mean?

We need to turn our clocks AHEAD one hour at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, March 10.

So.... change your clocks before going to sleep Saturday, March 9!

Share Your Talent



**Talent/No Talent Show
Sat., March 23
Plan your “talent” & talk to Becky!**

The annual Talent/No Talent Show will be held on Saturday, March 23. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. with the Show beginning at 5:45 p.m.. Watch the Weekly Messenger for more information.

This date will come sooner that we think so plan your “act” now! We are hoping for lots of acts to entertain us – no talent is required! A sign-up sheet will be in the lobby soon. Becky has ideas for “acts” if you need some help. Mark the date and come! This is always a very fun evening!

Kids Against Hunger

St. John’s Lutheran Church and Youth Group are hosting a Kids Against Hunger food-packing event at Michener Elementary School, 104 Dawes St., Adrian, on Saturday, March 16. Carefully measured and packed food stuffs will be put together in packages that will be distributed to those in need in the United States and around the world.

To find out how you can help, contact St. John’s at 265-6998 or talk to Becky.



Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019.** We join fellow believers around the world in this day of repentance. Our Ash Wednesday service will be **at 6:30 p.m.** on March 6. Communion will be celebrated. Ashes will be

available for those who wish to participate in this symbol of repentance.



Lenten services will continue *on Wednesday evenings, March 13 – April 10, at 6:30 p.m.* Our services will explore Jesus’ Passion through the music of Handel’s *Messiah*.

Guests are always welcome at all our services. Invite a friend or neighbor to meet Jesus.

Meat & Greet

Sign up at, or call, church by March 3 to participate in this year’s Meat & Greet. You can be a Host or a Guest...or both! Hosts contact Guests to schedule their get-together. Have fun



growing in friendship and faith.

Rummage Sale Coming in April!!

The annual Spring Rummage Sale conducted by Hope Women in Mission will be held Thursday, April 25, and Friday, April 26, 2019. This is the Thursday and Friday after Easter so we need lots of help to be ready. Begin thinking about what you can donate to the Sale. Watch and listen for announcements on when to sign up to help before, during, and after the Sale.

If you want to drop off your items now, please make sure they are in a sealed plastic container (so mice cannot make nests in, or a meal of, your donations) which is labeled “Rummage Sale.”

During this Lenten Season, may God grant you repentant hearts and the strength to live out your lives in ways that give Him glory.

Mighty 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!

The books for the 2017-2019 biennium of the (national) LWML will close March 31. It is important that we get our “mites” to the District well before then so that the 25% that goes to National can be sent to them before the 31st.

What are “mites”? Mites are our change – coins of all denominations and perhaps some folding money as well – from our shopping 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 Lutheran Heritage Foundation and their effort to provide Lutheran Books for Missionaries around the World.

Each year in the fall we celebrate the Reformation. While important for many reasons, we take time now to remember that this is when the Bible was made available to all Christians. The invention of the printing press and the translation of the Bible into everyday language was the gift that enables all of us to read the Word and learn about the Lord. Bible-based books are a critical support for missionary efforts.

During March, national reading month, we focus on the opportunity to support the Great Commission through this grant that provides Lutheran books for missionaries around the world.

Since 1992, Lutheran Heritage Foundation has been translating Lutheran books, such as Luther’s *Small Catechism*, or *The Good News about Jesus*, into various languages and providing them to missionaries around the world. This grant – of \$15,000 – will fund over 3,000 books for missionaries and partner churches. What a privilege we have to help!

Prayer: Dear Lord, please bless the efforts of those supporting the Great Commission by serving as missionaries and translators, and bless our mite offerings that they may enable their work. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Secret Sisters

Are you remembering your Secret Sister? Pray for your Sister daily and remember her regularly with a note. This pleases our Lord and strengthens our relationship with Him and with our fellow believers.

Women of Hope!

We will meet Monday, March 11, at 6:00 p.m. Opportunities for service abound! And important events are coming up! We’re preparing for our Zone Rally (being held at Hope!!), our Mother/Daughter Event, making another banner for church, and more. Join us, ladies!

Zone Rally HERE

The Irish Hills Zone of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League-Michigan District will meet at its Spring Rally HERE AT HOPE, on Saturday, April 6. We’ll hear how we can help “Restore Detroit.” Watch for ingathering information.

There will be a “continental breakfast” during registration time (9:00 – 9:30 a.m.) and lunch (about Noon).

We’ll discuss this at our meeting, but if you have ideas, contact Sharron Sheridan.

You are the Face of LWML!

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, wrapped 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



March Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Mikaela Starr	2
Jacob Brevoort	4
Dick Kuntz	10
David Weisenfelder	12
Tyler Moyer	13
Zoe Krueger	18
Susan Muck	19
Mike Vergiels	21
Kelsey Krueger	25
Phyllis Johnson	29
William Kohn	29

Birthdays, cont.

Michael Fink	30
Judy Kuntz	31
Kayla Sweeney	31

Baptismal Anniversaries

Jacob Brevoort	4
Delight Sieler	21
Dick Kuntz	25
Dale Martinal	29
Myrna Sheldon	31

Wedding Anniversaries

Rick & Michelle Wetzel	27
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Happy March

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 guide and protect our local, state and national judges
that God would comfort and strengthen all who have suffered loss in storms, flooding
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

For those who grieve: families of: Gary Ziegler, Virginia Woodard, Lillian Fogarty, Phyllis Hackney

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Myrna Sheldon	Amelia Martinal (feet)	DeLight Sieler
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	Les & Sue Howard
Tricia Moyer-Fowler	Marnella Campbell Lafferty	Sherrell Hofbauer
Mike Griffith (shoulder)	Herb Hamann (hospice)	Mike Posten (leg)
Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)	Kristie Smith (Lyme)	Jim Goetz (surgery)
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	Stephanie Votke (neck)
Sue Johnson (cancer)	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)	Jim Barancin (cancer)	Christie Lemley (cancer)
Gregg Woods (cancer)	Florence Hagerman (cancer)	Sally Sharp (hospice)

We give thanks to God for our many blessings.

Our Prayers

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Transfiguration 8:30am Classic Praise [C] 10am Education Hour 11:00am New Song	4	5	7 Ash Wednesday 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship [C]	8 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir	1 10:30am AI 8 10:30am AI	2 9
10 1 st Sunday in Lent 2am DST Starts 8:30am Classic Praise 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song [C] 12:30pm Youth Group	11 6pm Hope Women	12 6:30pm Elders	13 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm Lent II	14 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir	15 10:30am Adult Instruction (AI)	16 Kids Against Hunger Packing Event
17 2 nd Sunday in Lent 8:30am Classic Praise [C] 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song 4:00pm Prayer Time	18 Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Admin Board	19	20 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm III	21 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir	22 10:30am Adult Instruction	23 4:30pm Dinner/TNT
24 3 rd Sunday in Lent 8:30am Classic Praise 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song [C] 4:00pm Marriage Enrich.	25	26	27 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm Lent IV	28 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir	29 10:30am Adult Instruction	30
31 4 th Sunday in Lent 8:45am Coffee & Donuts 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship [C]					[C] = Communion	

March 2019 Servant Schedule

USHERS:	8:30 a.m. Mar.:	John Butler, Jay Butler, Lowell Oberhaus, Jim Ritzert
	11:00 a.m. Mar. 3 & 17:	Otto Bilkey, James P. Sheridan
	11:00 a.m. Mar. 10 & 24:	Rick Wetzel, Tom Sande, Jon Henzi
Mar. 3	8:30 a.m.	ELDER: Bill Kohn; ELDER ASS'T: Jerry Johnson; LITURGY ASS'T: Bill Kohn; READER: Sue Muck; COMMUNION: Jerry & Phyllis Johnson
	11:00 a.m.	READERS: envoy
Mar. 6	6:30 p.m.	ELDER: John Butler; ELDER ASS'T: Otto Bilkey; READER: John Butler; COMMUNION: the Martinals;
Mar. 10	8:30 a.m.	ELDER: John Butler; LITURGY ASS'T: John Butler; READER: Judy Parros
	11:00 a.m.	ELDER: Jim Logan; ELDER ASS'T: Otto Bilkey; READERS: Carol Herter; Dale Martinal; COMMUNION: the Sande Family
Mar. 13	6:30 p.m.	READER: Bill Kohn
Mar. 17	8:30 a.m.	ELDER: John Butler; ELDER ASS'T: Hans Jacobsson; LITURGY ASS'T: Dick Kuntz; READER: Dee Weisenfelder; COMMUNION: Hans and Arlene Jacobsson
	11:00 a.m.	READERS: Youth; Jon Henzi
Mar. 20	6:30 p.m.	READER: Rick Wetzel
Mar. 24	8:30 a.m.	ELDER: Bill Kohn; LITURGY ASS'T: Jerry Johnson; READER: Judy Theung
	11:00 a.m.	ELDER: Rick Wetzel; ELDER ASS'T: Dale Martinal; READERS: Helen Bendes, Rick Wetzel; COMMUNION: Kathy Beekel
Mar. 27	6:30 p.m.	READER:
Mar. 31	10:00 a.m.	ELDER: Jim Logan; ELDER ASS'T: Paul Martinal; LITURGY ASS'T: Jim Logan; READER: Patti Vergiels; COMMUNION: the Martinals