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The Messenger

March 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.

In the Cross of Christ We Glory

Dear Ones in Christ Jesus,

We're coming up to the infamous 1st anniversary of the nationwide shutdown due to the threat of the coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) infection that originated in China back in the Fall of 2019. What a year since then and "we're not out of the woods yet"! What started out as "15 Days to Flatten the Curve" (to avoid overwhelming our hospitals) was extended for months by many State governments including Michigan, crippling and driving many small businesses into bankruptcy. In fact, California is still basically shutdown for the most part a year later! One can honestly say that this is the first pandemic/epidemic where the young and healthy were quarantined along with the sick and elderly. The impact on our families, society and economy has been severe in many places and is creating further problems that will not be resolved anytime soon. According to the U.N., the shock to the economies of "the West" will contribute to death by starvation of an additional 142,000,000 people worldwide! Terrible! People in other lands also rely on our economic strength. (It does call forth a greater response from us as Christians to pray and help and contribute where we can; let's do so!)

At Hope, our dedicated staff and volunteers (along with our Board and elders) continue to do their best to provide for a safe environment for those who attend our Services, Bible studies and Fellowship opportunities as well as providing online streaming to stay connected via Facebook. Please invite friends as well as fellow members who are shut-in to watch and listen! The Gospel must go forth and God be praised especially during these exceptional times! Everybody needs Jesus!

The Church Season of Lent continues during March as we continue with services each Wednesday at 6:30 pm with the theme, "Cross / Peace." Thanks to Becky and her team of assemblers and deliverers, Lenten crosses and the accompanying theme pieces have been provided for every household at Hope. If you did not receive one and want one, please let us know so that we may get a set to you!

Easter Sunday is April 4th this year and we are planning services for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday during Holy Week. Flowering plants for Easter are available to be ordered, please let Carol know a.s.a.p. thanks!

Keep up with your daily prayers and home devotions, dear ones, and let me know how we may serve you better!

In the Cross of Christ we Glory!

Pastor Paul



Stewardship Corner

Jesus Cheers Us On

After writing the great “faith chapter,” the author of Hebrews wrote, *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...”* (Hebrews 12:1-2). The cloud of witnesses refers to the saints highlighted in the “faith chapter” who have gone before us in our race, which is a metaphor for living the Christian life. With this vision in our minds, are we not inspired!

Even more important than having the “cloud of witnesses” accompanying us on our race to receive an imperishable prize, we have Jesus with us. He is not only with us in our race, He is at the finish line cheering us on. Through faith, we can hear Jesus saying, “Come on, you can do it!” To help us in our races, Jesus blesses us in the following ways:

- He gives us energy: *“For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me”* (Colossian 1:29).
- He gives us courage: *“Fear not, little flock, for it is Your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom”* (Luke 12:32).
- He promises to be with us: *“I am with you always, to the end of the age”* (Matthew 28:20).
- He gives us hope: *“I am sure of this, that He Who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ”* (Philippians 1:6).

As God’s people, we not only keep our eyes on the finish line, we focus on Christ Who has shown us how to run and Who has run for us. Just as the runner is cheered on by his supporters, we are encouraged by those saints who, by faith, have run the race before us. Just as the runner is stripped to the barest of clothing and lightest of shoes, we rid ourselves of everything that could hinder our race and of every sin that could trip us up. Finally, just like the true runner, we run with joy and exhilaration. *“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:14).

As we run our races, we need to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit Who nourishes us for the task through Word and Sacrament. In our races, the Holy Spirit will help us to witness, teach, give, serve, and show compassion to others just as Jesus did during His earthly ministry.

Virtual Prayer Day

Saturday, March 6, 2021, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Hope will host a Virtual Prayer Day. Let the church office know if you would like to participate. You can come to church or view from home.

In this season of fear, uncertainty, and social distancing, Visual Faith™ Ministry invites you to find rest with God.

“Abide: Prayer Practices for Anxious Times”,

our first ever Virtual Prayer Retreat.

Connect with speakers

and visual faith practices that will guide you as you walk in relationship with Jesus, your Savior.

Visual Faith™ Ministry is the collaborative effort of on-line and “in-real-life” learning communities to enrich, encourage, and enable the connections between visual and kinesthetic learning and storytelling about God’s faithfulness in our lives. This Ministry is approved by the Michigan District of our Synod.



Prayer Vigil

We at Hope are holding a Prayer Vigil from 12 Noon on Friday, March 12, until 12 Noon on Saturday, March 13. We will be dividing the time in 30-minute slots, starting on the hour. There will be a sign-up area in the lobby or you can call the Church Office to let us know when you will be praying.

Join us as we pray for Hope and for a vision for how God wants us to minister to the community and to one another. You may pray at home. You may pray at church Friday afternoon from Noon – 5 p.m. if you wish.



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)



Daylight Savings
Time begins the 2nd
Sunday in March –
March 14, 2021. What
does this mean?

**We need to turn
our clocks AHEAD**

one hour at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, March 14.

So.... change your clocks before going to sleep Saturday,
March 13!

Easter Flowers

Easter Sunday is April 4 this year, just after we turn
the calendar to April!

It is time to order flowers to adorn God’s altar on this
most important day, when we celebrate Jesus’ victory
over sin, death, and the devil and His opening heaven for
those who believe in Him.

Order forms are available in the church lobby and
also were emailed to those on our email list. Complete
and return your form as soon as possible.

Thank you!



As We Prepare for Easter

The Lenten season is a time
for:

Reflection
Meditation
Prayer
Rededication

A time for all persons to:

Examine their lives
Evaluate priorities
Establish stronger ties with God and others;

A time for us to:

Share our faith
Serve others
Do good to others
Deepen our friendships and
Pray for one another.

- G. Todd Roberts

CROSS/PEACE

“For He Is Our
PEACE...through the
CROSS” is the theme for
our midweek series. Each
week we will focus on a
simple item in life that
reminds us of some facet of
God’s love for us. These
simple items will be put
together into a “kit” for
each household so you can
put together your own
Lenten display.



Then on Easter Sunday, we will greet each other with
the declaration that sin, death, and the power of the devil
have been defeated forever by Jesus’ resurrection!

Worship with us throughout the Lenten Season (in
person at 6:30 p.m. or virtually). Join us for this time of
spiritual growth. Our themes:

Wednesday, March 3 – (Masks required)



Hail King! reminds us that
sometimes we salute Jesus as our
King but do not let Him rule in our
lies.

Mark 15:16-20

Wednesday, March 10 – (Masks optional)



Nailed! reminds us of Jesus’
Commitment to us and challenges
us to great commitment to Him.

Luke 23:26-29, 32-33

Wednesday, March 17 – (Masks required)



The Highest Stakes cautions us
to never gamble with our spiritual
lives.

John 19:23-24

Wednesday, March 24 – (Masks optional)



Soaked in His Love reminds us
of the greatness of Jesus’ love for
us, and how we then love one
another.

John 19:28-30

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

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!

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 Special Education Ministries (LSEM).

Our Lord Jesus has instructed parents to bring up their children in the way of the Lord and has asked that the little children be brought to Him and not to hinder them. Children who have learning difficulties experience moments of immediate and/or unexpected need throughout the school year, and not all Lutheran schools have the resources and capacity to meet these unexpected needs.

LSEM is a national ministry headquartered in Michigan and has a long and rich history of serving children with learning needs since 1873, including reading out to these children in moments of crisis.

The Michigan District LWML, meeting virtually, in July 2020, granted \$25,000.00 to enable LSEM to continue to help children with learning needs at their Lutheran schools, so that they will not be hindered and come to Jesus.

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.

You are the Face of LWML!



National Convention

At this time, the LWML is still planning to meet in-person in Lexington, Kentucky, from June 24-27. The convention theme is “Looking to Jesus, we run the race set before us and proclaim the joy of the Lord.”

The LWML-Michigan District is one of three hosts districts for this convention. Workers are still needed! Many positions still need volunteers! (Husbands and older children can help, too!) See the Call for Workers form at the LWML Indiana District website, www.lwmlindiana.org, complete online or download the completed form and send to the Personnel Data Management Chairman (address is on the form).

Volunteers working a minimum of eight hours will receive a discount on the registration fee.

Talk to Mary or Sharron for more information.

Please pray for the volunteers and for all who will attend the convention, including delegates, guests, and speakers. Pray for God’s blessings as together we are “Running the Race...Looking to Jesus.”

Keep Saving and Sharing!

The quick checklist of things for everyone to be saving:

- 1) canned & boxed goods for community food pantries;
- 2) Boxtops for Education coupons on General Mills products;
- 3) Motel/hotel freebies (shampoo, wrapped soap, etc.)
- 4) 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

Peace in Life’s Storms

Jesus Christ offers no security against storms, but He is perfect security in storms. He never promised us an easy passage, only a safe landing.

March Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Mikaela Starr	2
Jacob Brevoort	4
Sarah Holmes	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

Wedding Anniversaries

Rick & Michelle Wetzel	27
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Baptismal Anniversaries

Ken Sande	3
Liam Sande	3
Jacob Brevoort	4
Dick Kuntz	25
Dale Martinal	29
Andrea Jenkins	31
Myrna Sheldon	31

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 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 2021 Administrative Board
that God would bless and grow our Sunday School, our congregation, Youth Ministry

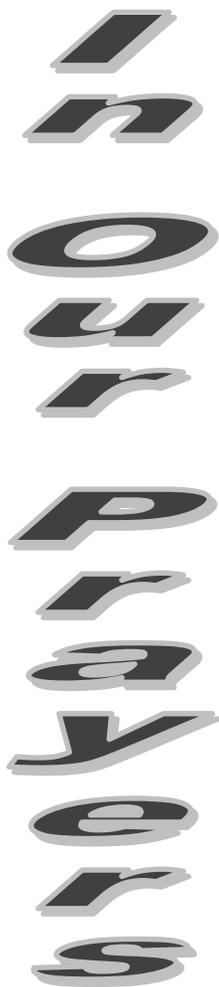
For those who grieve: families of: Betty Bendes, Christopher Carolan, Anthony Deptula

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)	Ron Gentz (broken ribs)	Stephanie Butler
Arleen Jacobsson (knee)	Patti Vergiels	Bob Wachter
Mary Jane Hull	Marnella Lafferty (thumb)	Brad Housman (pain)
Jim Hill (Parkinson's)	Richard Sande	Kristie Smith (eye issues)
Marti Hudelston	Jada Korsman	Mike Weisenfelder
Jon Willett (lung transplant)	John Parlier	Micheal Thiel
Bob Beagle	Lance Rowton (heart)	Gloria Putten
Bill & Jeanie Landry	Larry Bendes	Alan Garrison
Casey Muck (concussion)	Norma Fidler	Verna Garsey
Melissa Morton (stroke)	Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)	Lisa Cable (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, especially for Rod Pender, cancer-free.

Contact the Church Office, 263-4317 or hopelcms@tc3net.com, with new requests and updates.



March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	2 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr. 6:30pm Bible Study	3 6:30pm Lenten Worship	4 9:30am Home School Group	5	6 8:30am Virtual Prayer Retreat
7 3 rd Sunday in Lent 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation	8 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	9 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	10 6:30pm Lenten Worship [C]	11 9:30am Home School Group	12 12Noon Prayer Vigil begins	13 12Noon Prayer Vigil ends Easter Choir Rehearsal
14 4 th Sunday in Lent 2am DST Starts 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation	15 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	16 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr. 6:30pm Admin Board Newsletter Deadline	17 6:30pm Lenten Worship]	18 9:30am Home School Group	19	20
21 5 th Sunday in Lent 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation	22 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	23 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr. 6:30pm Elders	24 6:30pm Lenten Worship	25 9:30am Home School Group	26	27
28 Palm Sunday 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation 5pm Hope Youth	29 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	30 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	31		[C] = Communion	

March 2021 Servant Schedule

Mar. 3 **6:30 p.m.** **ELDER:** John Butler

Mar. 7 9:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Dale Martinal
10:30 a.m. **ELDER:** Rick Wetzel; **READERS:** Youth, Rick Wetzel

Mar. 10 **6:30 p.m.** **READER:** Bill Kohn

Mar. 14 9:00 a.m. **ELDER:** John Butler;
10:30 a.m. **ELDER:** Rick Wetzel; **READERS:** Jennifer Sande, Rick Wetzel;

Mar. 17 **6:30 p.m.** **ELDER:** Rick Wetzel

Mar. 21 9:00 a.m.. **ELDER:** John Butler
10:30 a.m **ELDER:** Bill Kohn; **READERS:** Carol Herter, Bill Kohn

Mar. 24 **6:30 p.m.** **READER:** John Butler

Mar. 28 9:00 a.m.. **ELDER:** Bill Kohn;
10:30 a.m. **ELDER:** John Butler; **READERS:** Judy Theung, John Butler