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The Messenger

March 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.

LORD, Revitalize Your Church

Dear Friends and Members of Hope Lutheran Church,

Well, it was three years ago this month that we began to feel the full impact of the Covid 19 virus which upended Church and society in America and, indeed, throughout the world. Thankfully, our first fears have diminished and – except for a few places where health, government and media elites still try to control us – the truth is gradually coming out about the virus itself, the Federal response to the pandemic and the stated safety and effectiveness of the vaccines. Notice that, recently, the President has declared an end to the Covid 19 health emergency. This should come as a big relief to our country, even though some say that the announcement is about a year too late.

Although all of us have differing opinions related to the actual impact of Covid, the worst impact in my view has been to the Christian Church and its members. Like many other congregations, Hope Lutheran Church is struggling to recover our losses in attendance, volunteerism, and financial support that we had prior to all this happening. This is not to disparage or criticize those who have faithfully continued in their active membership since that time. It merely acknowledges that we still have a long way to go. May God bless us and keep us in His love that we do not despair or give up because of the obstacles and challenges before us!

We are in the midst of the season of Lent. This time before Easter often is seen as an opportunity to sincerely repent of our sins and renew our faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the words of Joel 2:12-13 that serve as a general theme for Lent: “‘Even now,’ declares the Lord, ‘return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.’ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity.”

This is God’s call to all of us!

As you and I try to deal in faith with the many discouraging and threatening circumstances of our life in today’s society, we may wonder, “How will the LORD answer our prayers for renewal and revival?” By God’s Word and prayer!

Have you heard what has been happening at Asbury Christian University in Kentucky (near Cincinnati, Ohio)? It seems that the students there kept worshipping round the clock after a time of devotion had concluded – “it was just an ordinary service inspired by the words of Romans, chapter 12, but it quickly blossomed into an event that would attract over 50,000 visitors from across the globe.” (Cincinnati.com – The Enquirer, February 27) Amazing!

What should our reliance be founded on? God’s answer has been the same throughout the ages. For example, in the 5th century B.C., the Jewish exiles returning to Jerusalem from Babylon faced the monumental task of rebuilding the city and especially Solomon’s Temple. How could they? The prophet Zechariah told their leader, Zerubbabel, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but **by My Spirit**,’ says the Lord Almighty.” (Zechariah 4:6)

If there is to be a true revival of the Church in our time, don’t you think that God will bring it about by the same means He always uses?

Love to you all in Christ,

Pastor Paul

Stewardship Corner

Trust Prompts Giving

Jesus tells an amazing story about a poor widow who places all of her trust in the Lord. The Gospel of Luke (also in Mark) records Jesus' observing a poor widow putting two small copper coins into the temple collection box. At the same time, He saw some wealthy individuals giving large amounts of money. Jesus said something surprising when He said that the widow *"has put in more than all of them."* (Luke 21:3). We are told that the wealthy *"contributed out of their abundance."* (verse 4). These people made a show of their wealth by dropping large coins in the box so others could hear as well as see their giving. The rich gave abundantly, but their giving didn't cost them that much, because they still had plenty left over for themselves. The poor widow's giving witnessed to her trust in God and in His ability to care and provide for her. With her trust and faith in her heavenly Father, she gave everything she had with joy and confidence. She didn't have money for her next meal, but she gave willingly. In a sense, she was giving herself. She knew that God would supply the provisions that she would need.

When is the last time, you've given your entire pay check to God through your church, or when is the last time you've given away all of your savings? Most of us would say that this has never happened. While God may not be calling most of us to give all that we have away, He does want us to give regularly and generously of all we receive. Why do many of us fail to give in proportion to what we earn to the Lord through our church and other Christian organizations? Each of us has different and unique circumstances, but the one common element that keeps most of us from giving freely and generously is fear. We hold tightly onto our money because we are afraid that the money we've accumulated may not be enough. We allow the money and stuff that we accumulate to become our security. The poor widow had little, but, if she had any fear, she overcame it. She gave all that she had out of trust in the Lord.

Jesus spoke a lot about giving because giving is an important part of our lives as God's people. Whether we have little, like the poor widow, or much, like the "wealthy" we read about in Luke, God calls us to give regularly and generously. Giving expresses our gratitude to God for Who He is and what He has done for us especially through His Son, Jesus. Everything that we have has come from the Lord. *"What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?"* (1 Corinthians 4:7).

(continued in next column)

Trust Prompts Giving, cont.

By grace, God gives each of us life, and He provides everything we need for our lives. All that we are and have are gifts from God. Giving is one of the many ways that we express our thanks and our worship of Him.

May God help us place our trust in the Lord and demonstrate that trust through our generous giving.

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.

What Shall I Give Up During Lent?

Many Christians practice some type of self-denial during Lent. What might we best give up? Why don't we give up "self" and try, by the power of the Holy Spirit, putting our lives completely in God's hands. Of course, it is going to mean agony. It meant that to Jesus when in Gethsemane He said, "Thy will be done," and then walked the painful way of the cross. It will mean that to every one of us who, by the power of the Holy Spirit, seriously says, "Thy will be done," and allows the flesh to be crucified. But don't forget that the cross of death leads to the crown of life – Good Friday agony is followed by Easter joy. So maybe we might consider giving up "self" not only during Lent, but every day.



But because of His great love for us, God, Who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV)



Daylight Savings
Time begins the 2nd
Sunday in March –
March 12, 2023. What
does this mean?

**We need to turn
our clocks AHEAD**

one hour at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, March 12.

So.... change your clocks before going to sleep Saturday,
March 11!

Enduring Faith

Our Sunday morning Bible Classes, both adult and children not in Confirmation, continue using Concordia Publishing House’s Enduring Faith curriculum. 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 March, we will be studying these lessons:

March 5 –

“The Passover Promise”
(Exodus 12:1-32)

March 12 –

“Food from Heaven”
(Exodus 16)

March 19 –

“Waterworks”
(Exodus 17:1-7)

March 26 –

To be announced



Prayers of the Passion

The Lenten Season is a forty (40) day period of personal preparation before Easter. It is a time of introspection, repentance, and renewal. For many, it is also a time of self-denial in which they deny themselves something that gives them personal pleasure. For many others, Lent is also a time for prayer and meditation.

To assist your Lenten walk, Hope Lutheran Church will add six (6) mid-week worship services at 6:30 p.m. to its schedule. The first service was Ash Wednesday.

Prayers of the Passion is the theme for our midweek series. We will listen to Jesus and others praying during His Passion and learn from Jesus to pray as He did.

Our themes:

February 22 – “Let This Cup Pass”

March 1 – “Why have You Forsaken Me?”

March 8 – “Father, Forgive Them”

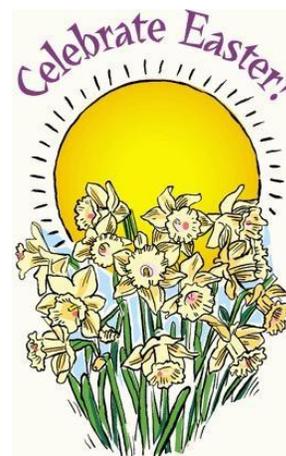
March 15 – “Jesus, Remember Me”

March 22 – “In Your Hands”

March 29 – “Simon, I have Prayer for You”

Please accept this invitation to worship with us throughout the Lenten Season (in person or virtually). Join us for this time of spiritual growth.

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



Easter Flowers

Carol Herter is taking orders for flowers to adorn God’s altar on Easter Sunday. Order azaleas, hydrangeas, florist mums, daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, Gerber daisies, and/or Easter lilies. Order form will be available at church in March or call Church Office. Orders are due by Sunday, March 19.

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 Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

The Holy Spirit at Pentecost gave Jesus’ disciples the gift of speaking many tongues so that all God’s children might hear His call (Acts 2:1-41). Included in God’s family are teenagers, who, because they’re not children and not yet adults, often slip between the cracks when churches provide resources to share the Gospel.

Missionaries and churches in countries like Indonesia, Thailand, and Cambodia have asked the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) for a Bible storybook that’s especially well suited to teaching the Lutheran faith to teens. Lutheran books in these languages are also needed for sharing the Good News with immigrant families here in Michigan, giving our congregations the resources they need to establish relationships with immigrants in their communities.

LHF has 30 years’ experience in translating and publishing the books of our Lutheran faith, including a new Bible storybook for teens called *God’s Word for You*.

The Michigan District LWML, meeting in Frankenmuth in July 2022, granted \$16,500.00 for LHF to translate and publish *God’s Word for You*, giving church leaders and missionaries the materials they need to introduce teenagers to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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!

Hope Women

Hope Women in Mission holds its March meeting on Saturday, March 11, at **10:00 a.m.** We will enjoy some lunch and make plans for our April meeting and our Mother-Daughter Event. Becky will have a craft for us to work on also. Call the Church Office to let us know you are coming and to learn exact location of our activity.

Spring Rally

The Irish Hills Zone of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) will gather to encourage one another and learn about mission opportunities in April. The date is Saturday, April 22; place is Trinity Lutheran Church in Jackson. Watch for further information in April.

Spring Rummage Sale

Sharron has tentatively scheduled the Spring Rummage Sale for Thursday, April 20, and Friday, April 21.

For this Rummage Sale to happen, LOTS of volunteers will be needed. Sharron cannot do all the work that she has done in the past on this. So plan to help set up and work and clean up after the Sale, besides bringing in your items to sell.

Not Just a Modern Problem

Ours is a day of self-promotion, defending our own rights, taking care of ourselves first, winning by intimidation, pushing for first place, and a dozen other self-serving agendas ... and it is not a modern problem.

Greece said, “Be wise, know yourself.”
Rome said, “Be strong, discipline yourself.”
Epicureanism says, “Be sensuous, satisfy yourself.”
Education says, “Be resourceful, expand yourself.”
Psychology says, “Be confident, assert yourself.”
Materialism says, “Be possessive, please yourself.”
Asceticism says, “Be lowly, suppress yourself.”
Humanism says, “Be capable, believe in yourself.”
Pride says, “Be superior, promote yourself.”
Christ says, “Be unselfish, humble yourself.”

- from *Laugh Again*, Charles R. Swindoll. 1992, Word, Inc., Dallas, Texas, pp. 79-80. Used by permission.

March Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Mikaela Starr	2
Jacob Brevoort	4
Sarah Holmes	4
Dick Kuntz	10
Patsy Broge	13
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
Jim Gulliksen	31
Judy Kuntz	31
Kayla Sweeney	31

Baptismal

Anniversaries

Jacob Brevoort	4
James Wing	15
Dick Kuntz	25
Dale Martinal	29
Andrea Jenkins	31
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 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 2023 Administrative Board
that God would bless and grow our Sunday School, our congregation, Youth Ministry

For those who grieve: families of: Bonnie Posten, Wayne Soltwisch, Pat Etter

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
Hans & Arleen Jacobsson	Bob & Joann Wachter	Jim Gulliksen (surgery)
Bill Kohn (valve surgery)	Mike Griffith (eyes)	Les Howard
Marnella Lafferty (knee)	Danielle Hofbauer (foot)	Sherrell Hofbauer
Ryan Liske	Stephanie Butler	Mary Jane Hull
Doug Williams	Lori Jones	Jackie Giroux
Thomas Groh	Sarah Holmes' Mother	Ralph & Wanda Saylor
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
Melissa Morton (stroke)	Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)	Casey Muck (concussion)
Jeff Moyer (stroke)	Trudy Gatz (leukemia)	Jim Ritzert (prostate)
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)

We give thanks to God for our many blessings.

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

HOPE
PRAYS

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30pm Lenten Worship [C]	2	3	4 1-4pm Moyer- Fowler party
5 2 nd Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class & Confirmation	6 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	7 NO Gentz Sm. Gr. 9:30am Pastors Circuit Mtg here	8 6:30pm Lenten Worship	9	10	11 10:00am Hope Women Noon/1pm Bonnie Posten visitation/service
12 3 rd Sunday in Lent 2am DST Starts 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class & Confirmation Noon – Hope Youth	13 6:30pm Elders	14 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr. Newsletter Deadline	15 6:30pm Lenten Worship [C]	16	17	18
19 4 th Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class & Confirmation	20 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	21 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	22 6:30pm Lenten Worship	23 3:30pm Admin Board	24	25
26 5 th Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class & Confirmation Noon – Hope Youth	27 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	28 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	29 6:30pm Lenten Worship	30	31	[C] = Communion

March 2023 Servant Schedule

Mar. 1	6:30 p.m.	ELDER: Rick Wetzel; READER: Rick Wetzel; USHERS: James P. Sheridan;
Mar. 5	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Jim Logan; READERS: Judy Theung, Jim Logan; USHERS: Tom Sande; COMMUNION: Hilda Cortez; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER: Judy Theung
Mar. 8	6:30 p.m.	ELDER: Jim Logan; READER: Jim Logan; USHERS: James P. Sheridan;
Mar. 12	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Ron Gentz; READERS: Youth, Ron Gentz; USHERS: James P. Sheridan; COMMUNION: the Sande family; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER: Judy Theung
Mar. 15	6:30 p.m.	ELDER: Ron Gentz; READER: Ron Gentz; USHERS: James P. Sheridan; COMMUNION: Martinals;
Mar. 19	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: John Butler; READERS: Sue Muck, John Butler; USHERS: James P. Sheridan; COMMUNION: Sue Muck, Sara Hackney; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER: Judy Theung
Mar. 22	6:30 p.m.	ELDER: John Butler; READER: John Butler; USHERS: James P. Sheridan;
Mar. 26	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Rick Wetzel; READER: Carol Herter, Rick Wetzel; USHERS: Tom Sande; COMMUNION: Mike & Darlene Fink; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER: Judy Theung
Mar. 29	6:30 p.m.	ELDER: Rick Wetzel; READER: Rick Wetzel; USHERS: James P. Sheridan;