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The Messenger

**March
2024**

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, Help Us Live Fully in You

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

“We live in a culture that is increasingly secular. At its best, secularism is simply what we Americans call the separation of church and state. It is a practical way to keep people from having to live lives regimented by someone else’s religious convictions and that keeps countries from being torn by conflicts between religious groups that all want to write the rules. There is a lot of history in our world that argues for the practicality of that kind of arrangement.

“As it has taken shape among us, however, secularism has a downside. We have come to a time when the legal structures of society are so intent upon not appearing to favor ‘religion’ over ‘non-religion’ that they appear to be in opposition to religion. In intellectual circles, the dominant belief that there are no absolutes has seemed to rule out the existence of God or of anything like ‘the will of God.’ In polite society, it is considered rude to talk about religion. Yet, many people seem to feel that it is appropriate to take every opportunity to ridicule religion and religious people. Now, we are given to understand that it is acceptable to have a religion, but we must keep it a very personal matter. That is to say, we may believe that there is a God, but we must live (publicly) as if He doesn’t exist. In that atmosphere, faith tends to wither away.

“That has left a huge empty spot in the lives of many people and communities where something important ought to be. We rush ahead doing what seems profitable or pleasurable, with no source of moral restraint except the very pliable expectations of our culture. Many people experience a deep sense of emptiness that comes from living lives with no spiritual dimension. We may feel a deep sense of lostness and hopelessness that comes from not knowing about anyone except ourselves, and others like us, who can be counted on or trusted or looked to for help. I suspect that, at one time or another, every one of us has experienced at least some of this sense of being spiritually adrift.

“Most of us have been trained to live lives shaped by the values and expectations of our secular culture. The Apostle Paul called that ‘living according to the flesh.’ He contrasted it with another way of life that he called ‘living by the Spirit.’ Paul said that people who live by the flesh are very likely to fall into a life-shaping fear that will lead to death. Many of us know more about that than we want to. It is, to say the least, a life that lacks much of the joy and the excitement and the meaning and the purpose that we think should be part of a life that is real life.

“If we let God lead our lives, that will add a new dimension to our lives, a dimension that will give life new meaning and purpose. That experience can give you a sense of never being alone, and knowing that there is Someone at work who is greater than yourself adds a new dimension of possibility to life. Knowing God is at work can generate a new expectancy in us. It can encourage us to venture out beyond what we once thought was our ‘comfort zone’ to see what can happen. It can teach us a new way of being alive.

When things like that begin to happen in your life, you may discover what Paul meant when he talked about living according to the Spirit. It is living a life that is shaped by a faith relationship with God. Better yet, you may discover what it means to experience yourself as a child of God. That may satisfy a hunger you may not even have known you have.

(continued on page 2)

Stewardship Corner

Our “Journey on to Heaven”

For the past few generations, Martin Luther, who was a pastor, theologian, author, hymnwriter, and professor, has been and continues to be one of the most referenced or quoted spiritual leaders of all time. Luther was a prolific writer, so he has a wealth of articles, books, and essays to quote. The following amazing paragraph from Luther does not reference the word stewardship or steward, but it conveys foundational truths of Christian stewardship.

Therefore, we must use all these things upon earth in no other way than as a guest who travels through the land and comes to a hotel where he must lodge overnight. He takes only food and lodging from the host, and he says not that the property of the host belongs to him. Just so should we also treat our temporal possessions, as if they were not ours, and enjoy only so much of them as we need to nourish the body and then help our neighbors with the balance. Thus, the life of the Christian is only a lodging for the night, since we have here no continuing city, but must journey on to heaven, where the Father is.

Martin Luther aptly points out that, while on earth, we are God’s guests. God is the creator, sustainer, and owner of all things. Both the food we eat and the homes we live in are provided by God. God makes it possible for us to plant food to eat, because He provides the seeds, ground, sunlight, and rain. He gives us the intelligence, strength, and energy to harvest the crops that He makes possible for us to plant. The meat we eat comes from the animals that live in the fields which God has provided along with the food He makes possible for them to eat. God also provides the materials for our homes. Our lives are in God’s hands. As His stewards, we receive His blessings with thanksgiving.

Luther’s perspective on temporal possessions is totally opposite of what our society promotes. Our society tells us that we create and have control over all we have. Our happiness and security are dependent upon having things. Our status is determined by what we have so we work long and hard to have big homes, new cars, and large investment accounts. In contrast, Luther reminds us that things, both necessities and luxuries, are God gifts on loan to us. Luther encourages us to be satisfied with enough to provide for our needs and to use the rest to support our neighbors and God’s kingdom.

(continued on next column)

Our “Journey on to Heaven”, cont.

Luther reminds us that “the life of the Christian is only a lodging for the night.” Likewise, the Apostle Paul tells us that “*our citizenship is in heaven*” (Philippians 3:20), so we “*press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 3:14). Our earthly journey is merely temporary until we rest in our permanent home with Jesus. By God’s grace, Luther knew that this life is a “journey on to heaven.” We do as well.

Pastor’s Article, cont.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul speaks of a deep yearning, a hunger, a hope that is there in the very life and body of the whole creation as it reaches out to come into relationship with God. ‘We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now, and not only the creation but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope, we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience’ (Romans 8:22-25).

Are you feeling that yearning in your own life? Then learn to live expectantly. The God whom you hope to experience is real and alive and never far away.”*

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Paul

(*from “Surprised by God” by James Killen)

Focus on Life

Right to Life of Lenawee County Benefit Dinner
Thursday, April 4, 2024
The Centre
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner & Program at 6:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker – Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director
and International Chair of the Euthanasia
Prevention Coalition

Reservation forms available in Church Lobby.
Reservations due with payment (\$40/individual;
\$25/student) by Saturday, March 16, 2024.



Daylight Savings
Time begins the 2nd
Sunday in March – March
10, 2024. 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!

Enduring Faith

Our Sunday morning Bible Classes, adult, youth, and children, 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 3 – “A Mountaintop Wonder”
(Luke 9:28-36)
- March 10 – “Mission Wonders”
(Luke 10:1-12, 17-20)
- March 17 – “A Welcome Truth”
(Luke 10:38-42)
- March 24 – “Lost and Found Wonders”
(Luke 15)



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 10.



Lenten Worship

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 has added six (6) mid-week worship services at 6:30 p.m. to its schedule. The first service was Ash Wednesday.

Behold the Tree is the theme for our midweek series.

Our themes:

- February 21 – “The Oaks of Mamre”
- February 28 – “The Burning Bush”
- March 6 – “Jonah's Withered Plant” (Communion)
- March 13 – “Planted by the River of Water”
- March 20 – “Zacchaeus' Sycamore”

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.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday, March 28 – **6:30 p.m.**
Communion will be celebrated

Good Friday, March 29 -
Scripture & Song **1:00 p.m.**
Service of Darkness **6:30 p.m.**

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



Christ is Risen!

Easter Worship

Easter Sunday, March 31 – 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Communion celebrated.

Bible Class and Sunday School will not be held today.

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! This loose change (and currency) is 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 Clark Park Street Ministry.

Family of God Lutheran Church desires to continue sharing the comfort of the Gospel and the love of Christ with those who are homeless and addicted, living in the park a few miles away from the church. There is already an established congregation that gathers on Sundays, which we wish to grow. Our Lord in Luke 14 commands us to search out the lost, going to the streets, lanes, highways, and hedges, compelling people to come to the Great Banquet, and in Matthew 25 commands us to clothe the naked, visit the sick, feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty.

A used trailer will help us to transport and store essential components of this ministry, including, but not limited to, a military tent, canned food, assortments of clothing, tables, and chairs in order to conduct a worship service for those who gather in the park.

The Michigan District LWML, meeting in Frankenmuth in July 2022, granted \$5,000.00 to enable the purchase of a used trailer to assist Family of God Lutheran Church with ministry to the homeless in Clark Park, Detroit.

You are the Face of LWML!

Opportunities to Serve

We are known as a warm and welcoming church. Those who volunteer to help with our services help us to be this way. We invite you to become one of those volunteers!

Type in (or click) the link below (or call the Church Office) and sign up to help on the Sunday(s) of your choice! Greeters and Ushers are needed.

We also would like more people to be trained to serve in our Audio-Visual booth. This requires a bit more commitment as more training is necessary.

Thanks for helping keep Hope a warm and welcoming place!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044AA4AB2FA0F58-47440933-february>

Hope Women

Hope Women in Mission holds its March meeting on Sunday, March 17, at **Noon**. We will enjoy some lunch and discuss upcoming events, and continue our study, "Strong and Courageous."

Planning meeting for Mother-Daughter Event is Thursday, March 14, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

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 27; place is Our Saviour, Hudson. We will hear from a representative of M.O.S.T. Ministries and make men's ties into eyeglass cases for M.O.S.T. Ministries. We can bring ties to convert.

Spring Rummage Sale

Sharron has tentatively scheduled the Spring Rummage Sale for Thursday, April 18, and Friday, April 19. Bring your spring/summer items.

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

Fun and Games!

Join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month for some board games fun!

Join us on the 4th Thursday of each month for some euchre or other card game fun!

The fun runs from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Bring a snack, if you wish. Bring a friend, also!

For more information, talk to Becky.



March Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Mikaela Starr	2
Jacob Brevoort	4
Sarah Holmes	4
Patsy Broge	13
Tyler Moyer	13
Sandra Morse	14
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
Dale Martinal	29
Andrea Jenkins	31

Wedding Anniversaries

Rick & Michelle Wetzel	27
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Happy March

Our Prayers

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
that God would guide the Board of Regents for Concordia, Ann Arbor & Wisconsin

For Hope –

that God would bless our 2024 Administrative Board
that God would bless and grow our Sunday School, our congregation, Youth Ministry

For those who grieve: family of: Jim Hill

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Tricia Moyer-Fowler	Danielle Hofbauer	Ruth Lamley (arm)
Margaret Parker	Sherrell Hofbauer	Mike & Patti Vergiels
Bob & Joann Wachter	Marcia Albain (headaches)	Hans & Arleen Jacobsson
Les Howard	Mike Griffith (eyes)	Barb Davis
Marnella Lafferty (knee)	Ryan Liske	Stephanie Butler
Mike & Patsy Broge	Mary Jane Hull	Mary Ellen Moyer
Thomas Groh	Ralph & Wanda Saylor	Ken Wrase
Keith Richardson	Rev. Daryl Etheridge	Marti Hudelston
Steve & Mike Weisenfelder	Rev. Joe Adams	Jon Willett
Kerri Gulliksen (osteoporosis)	Jeff Moyer (stroke)	Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)
Elaine Stevenson (cancer)	Jim McKinney (cancer)	Doug Thumm (cancer)
Tami McKenney (cancer)	Kent Brown (cancer)	Michael Palmiter (cancer)
Jerry Ragland (cancer)	Mike Snyder (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.

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 3 rd Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am SS & BC 3:30 pm Confirmation	4 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Elders	5 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	6 6:30pm Lenten Worship [C]	7	1 8	2 Zook Shower 9
10 4 th Sunday in Lent 2am DST Starts 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am SS & BC 3:30 pm Confirmation 5-7pm- Hope Youth	11 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	12 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr. 3:30pm Admin Board	13 6:30pm Lenten Worship	14 11:30am May Event Planning 1-3pm Games	15	16
17 5 th Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am SS & BC 3:30 pm Confirmation Noon-1:30pm HWIM	18	19 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr. Newsletter Deadline	20 6:30pm Lenten Worship	21	22	23
24 6 th Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am SS & BC 3:30 pm Confirmation 5-7pm - Hope Youth	25 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	26 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	27	28 Maundy Thurs 1-3pm Euchre 6:30pm Maundy Thurs. Worship (C)	29 Good Friday 1 & 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship	30
31 Easter 8:00am Worship [C] No Bible Classes 10:30am Worship [C]		.				[C] = Communion

March 2024 Servant Schedule

Mar. 3	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Bill Kohn; READERS: Mike Duncan, Bill Kohn; USHERS: Tom Sande; COMMUNION: Hilda Cortez; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:
Mar. 6	6:30 p.m.	ELDER: John Butler; READER: John Butler; USHERS: James P. Sheridan; COMMUNION: Martinals;
Mar. 10	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Ron Gentz; READERS: Youth, Ron Gentz; USHERS: James P. Sheridan; COMMUNION: the Sande family; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:
Mar. 13	6:30 p.m.	ELDER: Ron Gentz READER: Ron Gentz; USHERS: James P. Sheridan;
Mar. 17	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: John Butler; READERS: Sue Muck, John Butler; USHERS: John & Jay Butler; COMMUNION: Sue Muck, Sara Hackney; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:
Mar. 20	6:30 p.m.	ELDER: Rick Wetzel; READER: Rick Wetzel; USHERS: James P. Sheridan;
Mar. 24	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Jim Logan; READER: Carol Herter, Jim Logan; USHERS: Tom Sande; COMMUNION: Finks; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:
Mar. 28	6:30 p.m.	ELDER: Jim Logan; READER: Jim Logan; USHERS: Tom Sande; COMMUNION: ??
Mar. 29	1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	ELDER: Bill Kohn; READER: Bill Kohn; USHERS: ELDER: Rick Wetzel; READER: Rick Wetzel; USHERS: James P. Sheridan;
Mar. 31	8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	ELDER: Rick Wetzel; READER: Jennifer Sande, Rick Wetzel; USHERS: Tom Sande; COMMUNION: Logans; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER: ELDER: John Butler READER: , John Butler; USHERS: Tom Sande; COMMUNION: Logans; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER