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The Messenger

May
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
10:00 a.m. (ladies)
6:30 p.m. (adults)

In All Things, Proclaim Christ

Dear Ones Beloved by our Lord Jesus,

Hallelujah! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed, Hallelujah! (With Easter landing later in 2019, I just had to start this way! Of course, Easter Season lasts seven weeks until June 2nd this year.) Many thanks to all our faithful staff and volunteers who helped make our Resurrection celebration and all our Holy Week events into wonderful experiences!

This month, as I have observed since the January newsletter, we look again at a different scenario comparing the moniker, “Vote for Science” or “I Believe in Science” and line up such sentiments with everyday realities. As I think I have written before, I love science because true science gives a strong, natural witness for the existence of God and the orderly universe He created! The Bible – God’s own Word – gives an accurate picture (without ‘pulling punches’) of the real world and unseen world realities and how they intersect and relate in real life. (Psalm 8 etc.) As important as science is, it can only inform us as to the realities of the natural world. Still, we can use it to help us live in an orderly and satisfying way even in this fallen world.

In Martin Luther’s catechetical explanation of the petition from the Lord’s Prayer, “Give us this day our daily bread,” he mentions many different blessings meant by “daily bread” – among them the blessing of “Good Government.” Indeed, when we consider the way God has blessed America with a unique and durable Constitution and Bill of Rights; adherence to the rule of law; Judeo-Christian religious undergirding of the social fabric; a dynamic economy and strong military, - just to name a few of God’s blessings – we have a myriad of reasons to be thankful and praise our Creator! . (This is not to ignore our flaws by any means but focus on blessings that are the envy of many other nations and peoples throughout the world.)

Despite the abundance of blessings we enjoy, there are some very troubling problems we face that are not merely contrary to the teachings of God’s Word but anti-science as well! Permit me to mention three of them:

- 1) As stated in our Founding Documents, we subscribe to that “self-evident truth” that our Creator has endowed us with “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Therefore, since science itself affirms that human life begins at conception, “Good Government” should not lend support and give taxpayer funds to abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood. In New York, Virginia and a number of other States, government has not been good in protecting human life, instead endorsing by law the killing of the unborn up to and even beyond the point of birth – and applauding themselves for it!
- 2) Science acknowledges that we are essentially male (XY chromosome) or female (XX Chromosome) from conception – not both, not neither, not something else; therefore, “Good Government” should not pretend to acknowledge as reality someone’s gender identity/preference/pronouns as having objective reality. California State government has made it a misdemeanor (punishable by hefty fine) for medical and other professionals to fail to address individuals by their preferred pronoun! (By the way: California officially recognizes dozens of such pronouns beyond “he” and “she.”)
- 3) Marriage as a public stated bond between a man and a woman has endured throughout the generations among every ethnic group in the world. “Good Government” should not have the ability to change such a definition based on a nation’s social desires or whims, yet our U.S. Supreme Court acted in defiance of science to please a popular movement. Now, the floodgates are opened to all manner of political reinterpretation of what marriage entails. Things once regarded as perversion are being advocated including pedophilia and child-marriage!

We Christians need to oppose such unscientific actions based on our reverence of God’s Word, for certain, but as citizens of this Nation, we can oppose such practices simply on true science. Indeed, as citizens of the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world; we must!

Your in Christ, Pastor Paul

Stewardship Corner

Giving God-Pleasing Gifts

Scripture provides us with many examples of faithful people, who by God's grace, made God-pleasing gifts. A short list of some of those givers is as follows: the Poor Widow, who gave her last two coins (Luke 21:1-4), Zacchaeus, who gave half of all his money to the poor (Luke 19:1-4), Mary, who anointed Jesus with an alabaster flask of pure nard, (Mark 14:3-9), and the Macedonians, who gave beyond their ability (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

We can also cite the faithful Philippians who gave gifts to the Apostle Paul. Paul had spent time with the people in Philippi sharing the Gospel. He loved them, and they loved him as a brother in the Lord. Paul's thank you for their gifts is found in his letter to the church in Philippi. Their financial gifts to him expressed their love and gratitude for him and his ministry among them. They had concern for his physical welfare and for his ongoing ministry of sharing the Gospel.

When Paul received the gift from the Philippians, he "*rejoice[d] greatly in the Lord...*" (Philippians 4:10 NIV). He was lavish in his thanks. The church in Philippi was the only congregation to send financial support for Paul. What a joyful surprise it must have been for Paul to receive their support especially during his time of need while he was in prison in Rome. Paul was deeply grateful for the Philippians for their compassion and for their gifts. He commended their desire "*to share*" his troubles. He knew that the Philippians who decided to give gifts were people who felt Paul's afflictions as if they were their own.

Even though the Philippians were poor because of economic distress caused by droughts, their personal compassion could not stop them from giving. They put Paul's needs ahead of their wants. Their giving demonstrated loving and giving hearts. We are told that the Philippians gave multiple gifts. As generous as their gifts to him were, Paul reminded the people in Philippi that the important thing about any gift is not the gift itself but the heart of the giver. The people in Philippi demonstrated compassionate hearts and generous giving spirits. Their gift was a "*fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God*" (Philippians 4:18). May God grant us compassionate and generous spirits as well. Thanks be to God for giving us His grace, so we can be faithful givers.

Bring in your "mites" for missions!

A Note from the Counters

Please help the volunteers who count our offerings each week by NOT gluing, or taping your envelopes closed. You can simply lick shut with the glue tab provided.

When you have forgotten your envelope, please fill out an envelope provided in the bookrack, with your name and envelope number (if you know it). Envelopes are filled out by the counters if you do not because they are needed for tracking by the Financial Secretary.

Also, please write the amount that is in your envelope. This serves as a doublecheck for the counters that the amount is correct.

Thank you for your help in making our job a little easier.

March 2019 Stewardship Summary

Average Church Attendance: 98

Average Holy Communion Attendance: 47

Education Hour - Adults & Youth: 29;

Confirmation & Elementary: 6;

From the Treasurer

The 2019 First Quarter Summary Report is ready for review by the congregation. If you would like to receive a copy, contact Vikki Ritzert at treasurer.hope@tc3net.com or 260-5557.

Share the Warmth

Hope members are asked to help at the new Homeless Shelter in Adrian with other county Lutheran churches **on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month**. For each shift (7pm – midnight and midnight – 7am) one man and one woman needs to stay with those sheltering there. An evening meal needs to be prepared. Laundry also needs to be taken to a designated laundromat. Talk to Joann Wachter, 517-442-2739.

You do not need to help out both Wednesdays every month. However, if you can help out once a month or once every other month, it will be much appreciated!

Check out their website, sharethewarmthoflenawee.org.

*Happy Mother's Day
May 12*



Ascension Worship Wednesday, May 29

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, Jesus ascended into heaven. What a glorious celebration that was! He has promised to return in the same way He left. When He returns, He will raise everyone from death and take those of us who believe in Him home to heaven with Him! That will be a fantastic day and fantastic celebration – going on forever!

This is why we celebrate Ascension Day every year.

This year Ascension Day is Thursday, May 30. This year again, we, the redeemed people of God, will gather at **6:30 p.m. on Ascension Eve, Wednesday, May 29**, to give Jesus thanks and praise for all He has done and continues to do for us.

During this service, we will again hear Him promise to be with us always. Be fed with God’s Word and with the Holy Supper of our Lord. Then, go and tell. Love every person as He loves you!

See you Wednesday, May 29, at 6:30 p.m.!

Girls Softball

Hope is again sponsoring a girls softball team (our name on the team shirts). Amelia Martinal is a member of a team and Amanda Wetzel is the coach.

We invite the congregation to come to their games and cheer them on! Perhaps you will build a relationship with other families watching the games.

All games start at 6:30 p.m.

Amelia’s & Amanda’s games are:

- April 30 at Island Park (vs. Tecumseh 1)
- May 2 at Tate Field, 475 W. Michigan Ave., Clinton (vs. Clinton 1)
- May 7 at Island Park (vs. Clinton 2)
- May 9 at Heritage Park (vs. Tecumseh 2)
- May 16 at Island Park (vs. Tecumseh 1)
- May 21 at Tate Field, Clinton (vs. Clinton 1)
- May 23 at Dana Park, 939 S. Winter, Adrian (vs. Clinton 2)
- May 28 at Island Park (vs. Tecumseh 2)

Vacation Bible School

Hope is partnering with St. John’s Lutheran Church to provide the community with Vacation Bible School this year. The dates are June 23-27. Everyone with a heart for teaching children the love of Jesus – tell Becky that you’re available to help at this year’s Vacation Bible School. Families, we encourage you to take your children and their friends to this exciting opportunity!



ADULTS: Just for you! Hope will be hosting a Vacation Bible School-type experience tentatively scheduled for July 28 – August 1.



Congratulations to the following for successfully completing their studies and earning a High School diploma:

- Philip Starr from Onsted High
- Haley Wetzel from Adrian High

This is a Milestone for Philip and Haley. Please keep them in your personal prayers.

Marriage Enrichment

Marriage is a gift from God and that relationship is very important to God. As sinful human beings, we do not always treat our spouses as well as we should. We can learn tools to help us improve our marriages, however. Pastor and Carol Herter are leading a group through “Love and Respect” materials on one Sunday afternoon each month from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Now Paul and Becky Martinal are offering a second opportunity to go through these materials. They will meet with interested persons on Friday evenings from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. (except holiday weekends). This group will meet at the home of Bill & Dianne Wrase, 536 Rio Grande Dr. (Hidden River North). “Date Night” activities can follow the group meeting!! For more information, talk to Becky.

Mother - Daughter Event

Hope Women in Mission will end their 2018-2019 year with the annual Mother/Daughter event. Come and enjoy this special event!

It will be held on Saturday, May 11th beginning at 11:00 a.m. The theme is “*Knit Together*”. Our brunch will be catered by The Brick Wall of Adrian. Special guest speaker will be Mendy Greutz, DCE from Wyandotte. Special music will be provided by Al Hilgendorf, Judy Theung’s cousin.

All women of Hope and their female guests are invited to attend. Ticket cost is \$8 for adults and anyone 12 and older. Children 5-11 are \$4 and those 4 and under are free. Get your tickets NOW in the lobby or from Sharron Sheridan or Becky Martinal.

Please make sure you let Sharron know if you plan on attending and if others will be attending with you. We will need to give a count to our caterer **by May 1.**



Meals on Wheels June 3 – 14

Once again we have an opportunity to fulfill the ministry purpose God has for

our lives. Hope’s members are being asked to help deliver Meals on Wheels to senior citizens in the Adrian area from Monday, June 3, through Friday, June 14. Specific delivery routes are established, and you will be given a list of deliveries to make for your route.

Meals are prepared at the Piotter Center. Drivers are asked to come to the Frank Street entrance of the Center by 10:30 a.m. to deliver the noon meals. Routes take approximately 60 minutes to complete and you can have lunch afterwards at the Center. You will also receive money towards gas.

To participate in this ministry, sign up on the volunteer sheet in the lobby. You may sign up to help deliver meals once or twice or more often. If you have questions, talk to Bill Kohn, 265-3559. If you haven’t participated in this ministry opportunity before, why not try it this year? You may find that it’s a ministry you enjoy!

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.

Mighty Mites at Work

This month as you put money into your mite container, say a prayer for the Michigan men preparing for the public ministry at our seminaries.

Sunday morning we get ready for the day, go to church and start our day with our Lord. The pastor provides a wonderful message, and we have a wonderful day. Do we think of the challenges that our pastors bear, beginning with becoming qualified to serve in this way?

A poll of LCMS pastors indicates that this education can cost an average of \$150,000. In 2015, 44% graduated with debt of over \$60,000. Some of our pastors have needed to obtain employment outside the church to supplement the income of their salary as a pastor. What a commitment these men have made to provide a rich theological ministry!

We have been blessed with the opportunity to provide some support through our mites to the Michigan men studying to become pastors. Let us thank our heavenly Father for giving the LWML-Michigan District this opportunity!

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League-Michigan District, meeting in convention in Port Huron in July 2018, granted the sum of \$25,000 to provide scholarships for Michigan men studying to become pastors in our synodical seminaries.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You for the gift to help spread the gospel by supporting those who preach to us every day. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.



Whodunit?

Hope Youth is hosting a “Once Upon a Murder Mystery” Dinner on Saturday, May 18, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Come and enjoy a good meal and a good mystery! You can even be a participant! Figure out whodunit!

This is a fundraiser to support our Youth who are going to the National Youth Gathering in July.

Suggested donation is \$10.00 per person.

Dinner will be served after the first of three rounds. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby soon. Please let us know you are coming and note whether you would like to play a character or just try to solve the mystery!

May Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Vikki Ritzert	2
Bill Davis	8
Jonathan Henzi	14
Darlene Fink	17
Norman Knight	18
Ron Gentz	20
Carol Herter	20
Michael Vuiller	23
Kathy Brevoort	24
Kevin Giroux	27
Margaret Parker	27
Myrna Sheldon	30
Fred Sprague	30
Haley Wetzell	30
Bill Posten	31

Wedding

Anniversaries

Paul & Judy Theung	4
Dick & Judy Kuntz	5
Paul & Becky Martinal	5
Les & Sue Howard	12
Tom & Jennifer Sande	20
Richard & Mary Anne Hoyt	21
Jim & Kay Logan	25
Zachary & Jessica Brown	31

Congratulations!

... Dick & Judy Kuntz on their 35th anniversary!

Baptismal

Anniversaries

Erika Lewis	1
Hilda Cortez	3
Mary Martinal	4
Phyllis Johnson	6
Bill Posten	6
Otto Bilkey	7
Mikaela Starr	12
Philip Starr	12
Elaine Stevenson	13
Bill Davis	18
Judy Parros	18
Paul Theung	22
Sue Howard	23
Jan Wuebben	23
Janice Powers	28

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 all government leaders in all our states and our military

For His Church –

that God would move us to rejoice always in the victory Jesus won over sin, death and the devil and has given us by grace through faith in Him and share His message of reconciliation with those who do not know Him

For Hope –

that God would guide our Administrative Board as they do their work

that God will bless our summer activities – VBS, outreach events,

For those who grieve: families of: Dick Logan, George Philips

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
Jutta Gross	Heidi Fowler-Henzi	Sue Johnson (surgery)
Jim Hill (Parkinson's)	Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)	Kristie Smith (Lyme)
Jim Goetz (surgery)	Stephanie Votke (neck)	Linda Hall
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	Bill & Jeanie Landry	Cindy Bendes Carr
Jeremiah Smith (back)	David Baumgartner (cancer)	Wanda Allen (cancer)
L. J. Jones (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)	Tom Salbut (cancer)

HOPE
PRAYS

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	1 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm Adult Study	2 6:30pm Softball @ Tate, Clinton 7:15pm Choir	3 10:30am Adult Instruction	4
5 3 rd Sunday of Easter 8:30am Classic Praise [C] 10am Education Hour 11:00am New Song 12:30pm Youth Group	6	7 6:30pm Softball @ Island Park	8 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm Adult Study	9 6:30pm Softball @ Heritage Park 7:15pm Choir	10 10:30am Adult Instruction 6pm M.E. @ Hidden River	11 11:00am Mother/Daughter Brunch
Pastor at "Basics" Conference						
12 4 th Sunday of Easter 8:30am Classic Praise 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song [C]	13	14	15 10am Ladies Study NO Adult Study	16 6:30pm Softball @ Island Park	17 10:30am Adult Instruction 6pm M.E. @ Hidden River	18 5pm Mystery & Dinner
Pastor at various Conferences (May 13-14; May 15-16)						
19 5 th Sunday of Easter 8:30am Classic Praise [C] 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song 12:30pm Hope Youth 4pm Prayer Time	20 6:30pm Admin Bd. Newsletter Deadline	21 6:30pm Softball @ Tate, Clinton	22 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm Adult Study	23 6:30pm Softball @ Dana Park (Adrian)	24 10:30am Adult Instruction	25
26 6 th Sunday of Easter 8:30am Classic Praise 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song [C]	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28 6:30pm Softball @ Island Park	29 10am Ladies Study 6:30pm Ascension Eve Worship [C]	30 Ascension	31 10:30am Adult Instruction 6pm M.E. @ Hidden River	[C] = Communion M.E. = Marriage Enrichment

May 2019 Servant Schedule

USHERS: **8:30 a.m. May:** Mike Griffith, Jerry Johnson,
11:00 a.m. May 5 & 19: Otto Bilkey, James P. Sheridan
11:00 a.m. May 12 & 26: Rick Wetzel, Jon Henzi, Tom Sande

May 5 8:30 a.m. **ELDER:** Bill Kohn; **ELDER ASS'T:** Jerry Johnson; **LITURGY ASS'T:** Jim Logan; **READER:** Judy Parros;
COMMUNION: Jerry and Phyllis Johnson
11:00 a.m. **READERS:** Youth & Jon Henzi

May 12 8:30 a.m. **ELDER:** John Butler; **LITURGY ASS'T:** Mike Vergiels; **READER:** Sue Muck
11:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Jim Logan; **COMMUNION ASS'TS:** Otto Bilkey; **READERS:** Carol Herter; Dale Martinal;
COMMUNION: the Sande Family

May 19 8:30 a.m. **ELDER:** John Butler; **ELDER ASS'T:** Hans Jacobsson; **LITURGY ASS'T:** Dick Kuntz; **READER:** Dee Weisenfelder;
COMMUNION: Hans and Arleen Jacobsson
11:00 a.m. **READERS:** envoy

May 26 8:30 a.m. **ELDER:** Bill Kohn; **LITURGY ASS'T:** Jerry Johnson; **READER:** Hilda Cortez
11:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Rick Wetzel; **COMMUNION ASS'T:** Dale Martinal; **READERS:** Helen Bendes; Rick Wetzel;
COMMUNION: Kathy Beekel

May 29 6:30 p.m. **ELDER:** Bill Kohn; **COMMUNION ASS'T:** Joe Cortez; **READER:** Bill Kohn; **COMMUNION:** the Martinals