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The Messenger

May
2021

Pastor
The Rev. Paul Herter

Youth/Family Life
Becky Martinal, DCE

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.

Living in Faith, not Fear

Dear Ones in Christ Jesus,

Praise God! By His grace and with your prayers for healing, Carol and Justin, and I have joined the ranks of the nearly 99% of Covid positive cases to survive the virus! We recuperated under quarantine at home – no hospitalization needed! It was not “a walk in the park” – no virus, flu or nasty cold is, after all - but it was not the devastating illness predicted by certain health and political fear-mongers.

The fear mongering, even more than the virus itself, has devastated the church and society at large. People have been made afraid of going anywhere and doing anything even with family members lest they might possibly “infect” somebody without knowing it. Many in the media continue to disturb and upset people beyond an even rational response by hyping every new “outbreak” and the discovery of every new “variant.” Do you get the feeling, as I do sometimes, that certain individuals or groups in the public eye use the fear of the virus in order to maintain their own power and control?

Well, I’m sure that if you and I could speak in person we would have a lot to say about this whole matter. However, there is a question I would like each of us to consider and especially those of our members who have chosen to remain away from church since the first government shutdown in March 2020 as well as those who began to return but haven’t been in person for many months now. And the question is this: **at what point and under what circumstances will you return to in-person worship? In other words, what needs to happen before you will consider it safe to return to in person worship?**

Going back a year or more, the CDC had basic recommendations with regards to colds and flu: i.e. keep your distance, wash your hands frequently, and cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. I guess it was just simpler for them to tell us “wear a mask / face covering in public.” However, the use of masks and their effectiveness in blocking the virus (as established by medical science) has really seemed to developed into more of a psychological / political tool instead of a medical one. One might ask where is “the science” – that is, the data that tells us about the efficacy of masks with respect to spreading or preventing the spread of the virus? If you’ve been vaccinated, how has that changed your daily life?

Far more serious than any debate on health or political mandates, is the way we as Christians respond to this ongoing crisis. What started as “fifteen days to flatten the curve” back in March 2020 has now metastasized into fifteen months with no end in sight (even though “the curve” has been flattened long ago – with regard to the COVID 19 infection rate in hospitals), but the fear has not been flattened.

Dealing with the virus has been challenging enough; dealing with the fear has led to suspicion, anger, division, judgmentalism and even hatred! The Church has also suffered not only spiritually but with a frequent lack of rational thinking among her members.

Over and over again, God tells us in His Word “don’t be afraid,” “fear not,” “God has not given us a spirit of fear...” (i.e. Isaiah 41:10; Hebrews 13:6; 2 Tim. 1:7) As God’s redeemed people, because of Christ, we know that living in ‘Fear’ is not His Will for us. Spreading fear or fear-mongering is sin; it is of the devil. This is a temptation that must be avoided and repented of when sin occurs.

God’s Word also addresses the problems and the resulting sins from letting suspicion, anger and judgmentalism control our thoughts and lives. God even regards hatred as tantamount to murder! (i.e. Eph. 4:26; 1 Tim. 2:8; James 1:19-20; James 4:11; 1 John 3:15)

(continued on page 2, column 2)

Stewardship Corner

Participants in Sharing God's Love

Isn't it wonderful and amazing that in spite of who we are God loves us! God doesn't just love us when we get our spiritual lives all tidied up. He doesn't just love us when we get things figured out. God brings us into His love. We may think that we are outside His boundary or that our sins are too big for God to handle. Not so! God loves us and meets us at our point of need, and He enables us to be part of His plan to bring love into this world.

Because God is love, we can love. God's Word tells us that we are not only to "love in word or talk but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18). The love that God has for us should prompt us to go out into this world to share love through our words and deeds. The Apostle John tells us that we are to love one another "just as He has commanded us" (1 John 3:23).

Loving others is challenging because some people seem impossible to love. We may ask, "Do I have to love him or her?" We should not be surprised that there are many moments and days when we ourselves are not so loveable. We can be hard to love.

In Genesis 1, we are told that God created man in His image. Even though that image was lost, God still seeks us. He knows that we are sinners and don't love as we should; that is why He sent His Son into this world. The love of God is found in Jesus. From the Apostle John we read, "By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers" (1 John 3:16). God's love is revealed in the flesh and blood of Jesus. In the same way, Jesus wants us to use our lives—to lay down our lives—that our brothers and sisters might be blessed and saved. Through faith, we are able to love others because "love is from God" (1 John 4:7).

Filled with God's love, we are prompted to share our time and financial resources with others. With all the blessings that God gives to us, we have the opportunity to share with others. Our blessings are to be used to help our neighbors in need. In John's words, "But, if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" (1 John 3:17). May God's love within us overflow through us to others.

**Send in your "mites"
for missions!**

Pastor's Article, cont.

The solution is to return to the LORD, our God and Savior, to Whom we need to daily repent of our sins, daily trust in the saving work of Jesus Christ for our forgiveness, and determine, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to daily do good to others. Please pray for a full return by God's people to in-person worship, which is also in keeping with God's Word. (Hebrews 10:25)

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



Dear Members,

As Stewardship Chairman, I continue to hope and pray that someone will come forward and volunteer for the job of treasurer, maturity chairman and counters. Please call for information and job descriptions, 517-263-3666, and I will be glad to talk to you regarding these positions. I hope you will be interested in serving your church in one of these capacities. Thanks so much. Hope to hear from you soon.

Arleen Jacobsson

Mission Trip

Save the week of August 1 and join Becky Martinal, Hope Youth, and others on a Mission Trip to Detroit, Michigan! We will assist at Camp ReStore Detroit, helping with Vacation Bible School and some blight removal work.

The work of Camp ReStore is 3-fold, Environmental Care, Human Care and Construction (only homes that are owned by the tenant). The way we can help is through being on this campus to work in so many different ways from sitting jobs to manual labor. Financial donations are also very important as there is no real direct source of aid. As always prayer for guidance and success of this ministry is important.

All ages are able to come and help. For more information, contact Becky.



Ascension Worship Thursday, May 13

Ascension Day 2021 is Thursday, May 13.

Ascension Day is forty days after Jesus rose from the dead and celebrates His glorious return to the throne of heaven. He reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit. One day, soon, He will 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 a fantastic celebration – going on forever!

This is why we celebrate Ascension Day every year.

This year we, the redeemed people of God, will gather – together or virtually -- **at 6:30 p.m. on Ascension Thursday, May 13**, to give Jesus thanks and praise for all He has done and continues to do for us. If we *can* meet together, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper.

See you Thursday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m. – in person or via Facebook or WebEx!

Share the Warmth

The Share the Warmth shelter is open seven days a week. There is a need for volunteers to staff the shelter and provide an evening meal and do laundry – even during the period of stay at home orders. If you can help in any way, you will provide a blessing to the paid staff and those sheltering at the site.

Check out their website, sharethewarmthoflenawee.org.

Vacation Bible School

St. John's Lutheran Church is planning to provide the community with Vacation Bible School this year during the week of June 20. The theme is "Mystery Island"

from Answers in Genesis. We are being invited to participate in this outreach and educational event. Families, we encourage you to watch for more information on this year's Vacation Bible School and to invite others to join you!



Keep watching for more information! COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate changes.



Meals on Wheels

Hope has been assigned the two-week period of May 31 – June 11 to help the Department of Aging deliver meals to those older residents who need help with meal preparation.

Volunteers are needed – at all times, not just during this time period. Drivers are asked to come to the Frank Street entrance of the Center by 10:15 a.m. to deliver the meals. Routes take about 60 minutes to complete and you can have lunch afterwards at the Center. You will also receive money towards gas.

If you will help with this ministry, contact the church office at 263-4317. You can choose the route and day(s) you will help out.

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.

A PRAYER

God, give me eyes that I might see the work that can be done by me.
God, give me ears that I may hear the cries of those who need me near.
God, give me a mind that I might know how to help those who need me so.
God, give me lips that I might speak comfort, peace to all who seek.
God, give me hands that I might do some large or simple task for You.
God, give me a prayer that I may pray Your help and guidance every day.
And this one thing, all else above; God, give me a heart, that I may love.



Virtual Baby Bottle Drive

May 9-June 20, 2021

As we seek to change hearts and lives by providing Christian care, TOGETHER we will continue to elevate God's plan for the sacredness of life, sexuality, and the family in our community.



In honor of Mother's and Father's Day, we are humbly asking for your help in supporting the moms, dads, and children who needs us most, with a tax deductible gift to CPC of Lenawee. All of our services are offered free of charge to our clients. To see the many services we offer visit our website at:

<http://cpclenawee.com/>.

Ways to Give:

1. On our website @ cpclenawee.com. Scroll down and click on the orange DONATE NOW box.
2. Mail a check or money order designated for CPC Virtual Baby Bottle Drive, payable to CPC, 308 N. Broad St., Adrian, MI 49221.
3. Click on the DONATE TODAY Baby Bottle below.
4. Use your credit by calling us at 517-263-5701 to make a donation or to set up a recurring payment.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers and Clients, thank you so much for whatever you might do to help support CPC by keeping the Campaign alive and growing from Mother's Day through Father's Day.

Together for LIFE,
Roxanne Meeks, Executive Director



LWML National Convention June 24-27

Sharron Sheridan and Mary Martinal will be attending and working at this convention. More workers are needed. Please talk to one of them if you are willing to help. Also, they will accept and take to convention Walmart or Target gift cards (\$10, \$20, \$25) as Gifts from the Heart to help our future pastors.

Mighty Mites at Work

We praise and thank our mighty God for His love and His grace in helping us at the National level to reach our Mission Mite Goal for 2019-2021! We keep praying that God would bless our giving so we can reach the Michigan District Mite Goal for 2020-2022!

This month as you put money into your mite container, say a prayer for Concordia Seminary's International Graduate School Students.

The Bible proclaims that, "the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations" (Mark 13:10 ESV). The sharing of our Savior's love now is increasing in a number of different parts of the world. Lutheranism, in particular, is spreading in entire regions of different continents. Praise the Lord!

There is a significant shortage of well-formed Lutheran pastors with advanced theological education in most of these countries. Options outside the U.S. for the advanced theological study that is needed for these pastors are few and few overseas Lutheran church bodies have the resources to send their most capable students to the U.S. for this advanced study.

Concordia Seminary's Graduate School continues to welcome and form highly qualified international students. The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod has named supporting and expanding theological education as one of its key mission priorities to ensure that there will be well-formed pastors to lead Lutheran congregations throughout the world

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Michigan District, meeting virtually in convention in July 2020, granted the sum of \$10,000 to provide vital support for Concordia Seminary's International Graduate School students.

Irish Hills Zone Rally May 22

In an abundance of caution, the Irish Hills Zone Spring Rally has been moved from Saturday, April 24, to Saturday, May 22. The Rally will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 11151 US12, Brooklyn, MI. The festivities begin at 9:30 a.m. Come early so you can register.

Please let Sharron or Mary know that you are joining us for this Rally!

*Happy Mother's Day
May 9*

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
Kathy Brevoort	24
Kevin Giroux	27
Margaret Parker	27
Brendan Holmes	29
Nicklas Holmes	29
Presley Holmes	29
Myrna Sheldon	30
Fred Sprague	30
Haley Wetzel	30
Bill Posten	31

Wedding Anniversaries

Paul & Judy Theung	4
Dick & Judy Kuntz	5
Paul & Becky Martinal	5
Tom & Jennifer Sande	20
Jim & Kay Logan	25
Zachary & Jessica Brown	31

Congratulations!

... to Paul and Judy Theung, on their 25th wedding anniversary on May 4!

Baptismal Anniversaries

Erika Lewis	1
Hilda Cortez	3
Mary Martinal	4
Phyllis Johnson	6
Bill Posten	6
Otto Bilkey	7
Mikaela & Philip Starr	12
Elaine Stevenson	13
Bill Davis	18
Judy Parros	18
Paul Theung	22
Jan Wuebben	23
Janice Powers	28
Brendan, Nicklas, Presley Holmes	29

We Pray This Month:

For the Nations of the world for peace, healing from COVID-19, & 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 evil & has given us by grace through faith in Him & 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 & our future plans

For those who grieve: families of: Alyssa Bachert, Andrea Turgion, Chris Elliott, Frank

Wilkerson, Al Wilkerson, Betty Townsend

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Myrna Sheldon	Dorothy Parker	Maynard Howard
Margaret Parker	Dave & Dee Weisenfelder	Chuck & Ruth Presley
Tricia Moyer-Fowler	Marcia Albain (headaches)	Patti Vergiels
Ron Gentz (shoulder)	Arleen Jacobsson (knee)	Bob Wachter
James Sheridan (broken leg)	Stephanie Butler	Mary Jane Hull
Brad Housman (pain)	Richard Sande	Kristie Smith (eye issues)
Marti Hudelston	Jada Korsman	Mike Weisenfelder
Jon Willett	John Parlier	Micheal Thiel
Bob Beagle	Jeff Moyer (stroke)	Gloria Putten
Bill & Jeanie Landry	Don Smith, Jr.	Alan Garrison
Casey Muck (concussion)	Norma Fidler	Verna Garsey
Melissa Morton (stroke)	Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)	Lisa Cable (cancer)
Allison Oliver (cancer)	Tammi McCarley (cancer)	Fred Langley (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)

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May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 5 th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation 5pm Youth	3 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	4 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	5 6:30pm Bible Study	6	7	1 8 3pm Baptism (private)
9 6 th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation	10 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	11 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	12 6:30pm Bible Study	13 Ascension 6:30pm Ascension Eve Worship [C]	14	15
16 7 th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation	17 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	18 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr. 6:30pm Admin Bd.	19 6:30pm Bible Study	20	21 HomeSchool Grad Rehearsal	22 9am IHZ Spring Rally @ St. Mark, Brooklyn 11:30am HomeSchool Grad
23 Pentecost Sunday 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional) 3:30pm Confirmation 5pm Youth	24 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	25 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr. 6:30pm Elders	26 6:30pm Bible Study Newsletter Deadline	27	28	29
30 Trinity Sunday 9:00am Classic Praise [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am New Song [C] (Masks Optional)	31 Memorial Day Office Closed					[C] = Communion

May 2021 Servant Schedule

May 2	9:00 a.m. ELDER: Jim Logan 10:30 a.m. ELDER: Rick Wetzel; READERS: envoy; Rick Wetzel
May 9	1:00 p.m. ELDER: Jim Logan 6:30 p.m. ELDER: Rick Wetzel; READERS: Jennifer Sande, Rick Wetzel
May 13	6:30 p.m. ELDER: John Butler
May 16	9:00 a.m. ELDER: John Butler 10:30 a.m. ELDER: Rick Wetzel; READERS: Mary Martinal, Rick Wetzel
May 23	9:00 a.m. ELDER: Bill Kohn 10:30 a.m. ELDER: John Butler; READERS: Judy Theung, John Butler
May 30	9:00 a.m. ELDER: John Butler 10:30 a.m. ELDER: Bill Kohn; READERS: Carol Herter, Bill Kohn