



5625 W. US Hwy. 223

Adrian, MI 49221

(517) 263-4317

[www.hopeadrian.org](http://www.hopeadrian.org)

E-mail: [hopelcms@tc3net.com](mailto:hopelcms@tc3net.com)

## The Messenger

May  
2023

### Pastor

The Rev. Paul Herter

### Youth/Family Life

Becky Martinal, DCE

### 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.

## Love Those Who Struggle

Dear Ones for whom Christ died,

Transgender issues have been in the news more and more, especially since President Biden invited Dylan Mulvaney to the White House for the purpose of discussing such issues. Dylan Mulvaney, in case you don't recognize that name, is a biological man identifying as a female. In the last year, he has become somewhat of a media darling. President Biden pretty much wanted to show the country his acceptance of people dealing with gender dysphoria and, of course, tying it into his own political agenda. (We all know that that's what politicians do, no matter what party or philosophy they represent.)

So, this month, I thought I would quote extensively from one of our Church's timely and well-written pamphlets entitled, "A Biblical Response to Transgenderism" by David Langewisch. (Concordia Publishing House, 2020, pp. 5, 7-9) Copies of these pamphlets, and others dealing with contemporary issues, are available in the church lobby.

"There is a dangerous opinion floating around our communities, and it is that the Church is not a safe place to talk about issues of sexuality and gender identity. Some falsely think the Bible and those who say the live by it are filled with nothing but judgment. The first step in a Christian, biblical response to transgenderism is changing that perception. Certainly, the Bible is filled with judgment statements. 'Thou shalt not' does not leave room for 'But what if I want to?' Behind God's statements of judgment and declarations of His Law are His love for His creation and His desire to set humanity on a good path, a redemptive path, a path that is described by Jesus as life to the full, as having life 'abundantly' (John 10:10).

"When Jesus walked this earth, He had an incredible ability to balance judgment with love. He had remarkably high standards. He had zero tolerance for sin in any form. However, He also associated with a crazy mix of people. And He was criticized for this: 'Look at Him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' (Matthew 11:19). When a woman who clearly had guilt in the area of sexual sin came to anoint Jesus, one of the religious experts looked on with judgment: 'If this man were a prophet, He would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner' (Luke 7:39). The implication is this – if we find out how bad someone's sin is, we won't associate with that person.

"If the Church locks its doors to sinners, the inside is empty. If broken people have to repair themselves before they can receive any of God's love, no one is loved by God. And this understanding is what makes the Church a safe place for those who may be dealing with sexual identity issues. God calls sinners who are trapped in their sin. He does not leave them there, but that's where He starts. In research done by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 2017-18, questions specifically targeted why young adults remained connected to the Church when others had left. Seventy-two percent of active young adults agreed there was a person at church who was safe. They could talk to them. There was a place to ask the hard questions and have the challenging conversations. Key word? *Safe*. If there is any part of life where there are hard questions and challenging conversations, it is with gender-identity and sexual-orientation issues. And if anyone needs a safe place to go, it is someone who struggles with these issues or who has a friend or family member who is struggling." (pp. 7-9)

(continued on page 2, column 2)

## Stewardship Corner

### The Lord has Need of It

As God's people, we understand that all we are and have are gifts from Him. God entrusts us with many blessings. He is the creator and owner of all things, and we, as stewards, have the responsibility and privilege to manage His gifts to us according to His purpose. As caretakers, but not owners, of what God has given to us, we need to be mindful not to become too attached to things knowing that He may ask us at any time to give what we have to people in need or to advance His kingdom. If we hear God telling us, "*The Lord has need of it*" (Luke 19:34) are we going to be willing to surrender some of our savings, 401k plans, or whatever we have for the purpose that He has for them?

In the Gospel of Luke, the owner of a donkey heard the words, "*The Lord has need of it.*" During the time of Jesus, donkeys were one of the most important assets to a person's survival. Donkeys were used for transportation and for hauling food and other items. To fulfill an Old Testament prophesy, Jesus would use a donkey to make His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. In Zechariah 9:9 we read, "*Behold, your King is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is He, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*" Jesus told two of disciples where they should go to find a donkey "*So those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' And they said, 'The Lord has need of it'*" (Luke 19:32-34). When the donkey's owners saw the disciples untying the donkey, they did not contest or argue with them. By giving this animal to the disciples, the owners displayed deep faith and love for Jesus as well as trust that Jesus would provide for them even without this prized possession. What a joy it must have been for them to see Jesus riding into Jerusalem on their donkey!

In our lives, there are many things that we value more than others. We should be asking ourselves if we are willing to be as willing as the owners of the donkey were to surrender something important to us? While, we may never be asked to give away something of great value, we still have the opportunity to express our gratitude to God for Who He is and for His countless blessings by giving to Him faithfully and generously throughout the year. We work hard to earn our incomes and to accumulate some money to save. Every time we give some of our money to God through the church, we give away something that has some importance to us. May God grant each of us thankful, trusting, and giving hearts.

## Pastor's Article, cont.

"The message of Christianity is one of a shared struggle with sin, shared by all. But the message of Christianity is also one of promise and victory in Jesus Christ, designed for all. Regardless of where people are – on society's fringe or on Christianity's moral and spiritual fringe – the heart of God is filled with compassion and longing to draw all people to Himself." (p. 5 – underline: my emphasis)

I'll stop here, but I urge you to read the rest of this pamphlet for yourself.

Sincerely,

Pastor Paul

*"Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear [reverent awe]."*

Jude 22-23a

## Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 4. Please make an extra effort to make time to pray for our church, our community, our nation, our world that day. Our Heavenly Father invites us to talk with Him and loves to answer our prayers.

We thank:

- 1) Lowell and Linda Oberhaus, for weeding and beautifying the entry flower mound;
- 2) All who brought things to the Rummage Sale;
- 3) All who worked to set up, clean up, and at the Sale;

HOW CAN WE  
*thank*  
=God=  
ENOUGH FOR YOU?  
- 1 Thessalonians 3:9, NIV -

*Happy Mother's Day*  
*May 14*



## Ascension Worship Thursday, May 18

Ascension Day 2023 is Thursday, May 18. 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 **at 6:30 p.m. on Ascension Thursday, May 18**, to give Jesus thanks and praise for all He has done and continues to do for us. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper.

See you Thursday, May 18, at 6:30 p.m.!

## Enduring Faith

Our Sunday morning Bible Classes, both adult and elementary children, are 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 May, Ron Gentz (and Bill Kohn on May 14) will lead the adults as we study these lessons:

May 7 – *"The Palm-Tree Judge"* [Deborah]  
(Judges 4)

May 14 – *"The Weakened Judge"* [Samson]  
(Judges 16:4-31)

May 21 – *"The Faith-Full Family"* [Ruth]  
(Ruth 1:1 – 2:13; 4:13-17)

May 28 – *"The Chosen King"* [Saul]  
(1 Samuel 8:4 – 9:2; 10:17-27; 11:12-15)

## Card Shower

Mom (Myrna Sheldon) will be 90 years old on May 30<sup>th</sup>. When she was a child growing up, her mother would tell her the Memorial Day parade was for her.

It will be three years this August, Mom moved to Aspen Grove Assisted Living. God guided our selection since this time was during the height of Covid and we were not allowed to visit the premises. Mom has her own furniture in her own room and it has been a pleasure for her to have her favorite chair.

The Alzheimer's journey is long and painstaking. Mom continues to slip away from us a little bit each month/visit. She recognizes her sister, Dianne and the two of us as family members but often is not able to call us by name. Her conversations are often "all over the place". However, she finds lots of things humorous and her laugh is still there. Since breaking her hip last December, she is wheelchair bound.

We appreciate all your thoughts and prayers on her behalf. We are asking people to send her a birthday card for this milestone birthday.

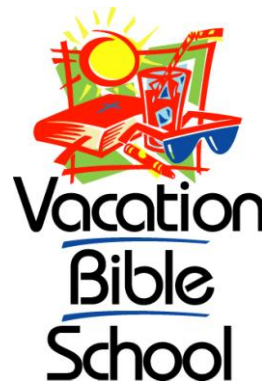
Her address is:

Aspen Grove  
7515 Secor Road #702  
Lambertville, MI 48144

Attn: Myrna

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Karen and Anne



## VBS

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 11, Sunday, July 9, and Sunday, August 13, and plan to come to Hope for Vacation Bible School! Activities will be held late afternoon into early evening for ALL ages. For more information, contact Becky.

### Special Sunday Schedule

**May 28, 2023**

**9:00 a.m. - Bible Classes for All Ages**

**10:30 a.m. - United Worship with  
Communion**

## Baby Bottle Drive

May 14-June 18, 2023

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. Online at [friendsofcpclenawee.com](http://friendsofcpclenawee.com). Click on the DONATE button.
2. Mail a check or money order designated for CPC Virtual Baby Bottle Drive, payable to CPC, 308 N. Broad St., Adrian, MI 49221.

OR:

Pick up a baby bottle at church, fill with money or a check payable to CPC, and return before June 18.

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

## 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.

## Meals on Wheels

Volunteers are needed to deliver a hot meal to homebound seniors. Drivers are asked to come to the Frank Street entrance of the Adrian Senior 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 kitchen, 517-263-4529, and ask for the Route Coordinator.

## Mother/Daughter Event

Our Mother/Daughter Event for this year will be held at Hope on Saturday, May 13, the day before Mother's Day. The time is 11:30 a.m.

Ladies of all ages are invited. We will enjoy a simple meal and we will be honoring/remembering our Mothers. Bring a keepsake or item that reminds you of your Mother and share the keepsake and memory with those at table with you.

Call the Church Office, 517-263-4317, and let us know you are coming and how many you are bringing no later than Wednesday, May 10.

## Mighty Mites at Work

We praise and thank our mighty God for His love and His grace so we can reach the Michigan District Mite Goal for 2020-2022 and the National Mite Goal for 2021-2023!

Bring in your mites at any time and give them to Mary or mark as "Mites" and leave in the Church Office.

This month as you put money into your mite container, say a prayer for Female Students studying to be a Deaconess or a Professional Church Worker.

Our Lord has called workers into the harvest field to share the good news of salvation to all we come in contact with. *"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field"* (Matthew 9:38).

The need for deaconesses and other professional church workers in our Synod is great and growing daily. The financial obligation for these women to receive the training necessary in the Concordia University and Seminary system is sometimes cost prohibitive and a strain on their ability to attend a Concordia University or Seminary..

By providing this grant, we help women to be able to answer the call from the Lord, *"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"* (Isaiah 6:8), by saying, *"Here I am, send me,"* enabling them to use their gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, meeting in convention in July 1011, granted the sum of \$20,000 to enable women in the Michigan District to use their gifts in service to our Synod in professional church work.

Thanks be to God!

We are HIS!

# May Celebrations

## Happy Birthday

Vikki Ritzert	2
DeWight Moyer	6
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	28
Nicklas Holmes	28

## Birthdays, cont.

Presley Holmes	28
Myrna Sheldon	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

## Baptismal Anniversaries

Hilda Cortez	3
Mary Martinal	4
Phyllis Johnson	6
Bill Posten	6
Otto Bilkey	7
Noah Steinke	11
Philip Starr	12
Elaine Stevenson	13
Judy Parros	18
Paul Theung	22
Jan Wuebben	23
Janice Powers	28
Brendan, Nicklas, Presley Holmes	28

# Our Prayers

### We Pray This Month:

For the Nations of the world for peace and the end of war, & 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: family of:

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Jeremy Filber (surgery)	Vikki Ritzert (heart)	Danielle Hofbauer (foot)
Linda Oberhaus (hand surgery)	Jim Logan (neck surgery)	Myrna Sheldon
Margaret Parker	Maynard Howard	Eleanor Lorentz
Mike & Patti Vergiels	Chuck & Ruth Presley	Jim Hill
Marcia Albain (headaches)	Dick Kuntz	Sherrell Hofbauer
Hans & Arleen Jacobsson	Bob & Joann Wachter	Mike Griffith (eyes)
Marnella Lafferty (knee)	Les Howard	Ryan Liske
Donna Hill	Stephanie Butler	Mary Jane Hull
Sandra Morse	Thomas Groh	Jackie Giroux
Lori Jones	Sarah Holmes' Mother	Ralph & Wanda Saylor
Mary Ellen Moyer	Richard Sande	Marti Hudelston
Jada Korsman	Rev. Joe Adams	Jon Willett
Steve & Mike Weisenfelder	Rev. Daryl Etheridge	Ed Carr
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.

# May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	2 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	3 6:30pm Bible Study	4 Nat'l Day of Prayer	5	6
7 5th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class & Confirmation Noon - Hope Youth	8 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Elders	9 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	10 6:30pm Bible Study	11	12	13 11:30am Ladies' Luncheon at Hope
14 6th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class & Confirmation	15 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	16 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	17 6:30pm Bible Study	18 Ascension 3:30pm Admin Bd. 6:30pm Ascension Eve Worship [C]	19	20
21 7th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class & Confirmation Noon - Hope Youth	22 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	23 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	24 NO Bible Study Newsletter Deadline	25	26	27
28 Pentecost 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class & Confirmation 10:30am Worship [C]	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31			[C] = Communion

## May 2023 Servant Schedule

- May 7** 9:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Ron Gentz; **READERS:** YPS, Ron Gentz; **USHERS:** Tom & Jacob Sande; **COMMUNION:** Hilda Cortez?; **ACOLYTE:** ; **GREETER:**
- 
- May 14** 9:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Bill Kohn; **READERS:** Jennifer Sande, Bill Kohn; **USHERS:** James P. Sheridan; **COMMUNION:** the Sande Family; **ACOLYTE:** ; **GREETER:**
- 
- May 18** 6:30 p.m. **ELDER/READER:** John Butler
- 
- May 21** 9:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Rick Wetzel; **READERS:** Judy Theung, Rick Wetzel; **USHERS:** James P. Sheridan; **COMMUNION:** Sue Muck & Sara Hackney; **ACOLYTE:** ; **GREETER:** Judy Theung
- 
- May 28** 10:30 a.m. **ELDER:** John Butler; **READERS:** Carol Herter, John Butler; **USHERS:** Tom & Jacob Sande; **COMMUNION:** Mike & Darlene Fink; **ACOLYTE:** ; **GREETER:** Judy Theung

# Hail Our Risen & Ascended Lord