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The Messenger

May
2025

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.

Be Easter Christians!

Dear Ones in the Risen Christ!

“After Christ’s tomb was found empty and Jesus appeared alive to hundreds of witnesses on many occasions, doubt disappeared, and the early church had overwhelming confidence in the Lord. The church today must live and be about its ministry with the same Easter confidence. We say we rely on God’s mercy for our salvation; we need to give over all areas of our lives to God’s control. What aspects of ourselves are outside God’s control? Our temper? Our money? Our time? We need to join the psalmist and say, ‘Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.’ Our trust in the Lord must be complete. We are not longer a defeated people but powerful Easter people. Little children in danger or in despair literally run and throw themselves into the arms of their mother. This is confident faith. When was the last time we ran and thrust ourselves in faith onto the Lord? A cautious step in His direction is better than none at all, but believing with abandonment is called forth by an empty tomb. God wants us to love Him with abandon so He can bring the greatest joy and purpose possible into our lives.

“God also encourages us to hold fast to hope without wavering. Scripture says, ‘Where there is no hope, the people perish.’ Too many of us view too much of our lives and the world as hopeless. Without hope, no great strides will be made in the future; there is no venturesome faith without hope. Without hope we burrow into the ground and live the life of a mole instead of walking freely in God’s sunlight. In a difficult situation, a hopeful people find the challenge and opportunity to do something great for God. (By the way, Scripture tells us that without God, there is no real hope. This is why we pray for the prodigal and encourage them to ‘return to the LORD their God!’)

“Confident in our faith, with an unwavering hope, the Lord also encourages us to stir up one another to love and good works. Let us put our faith into action and do something. Faith and hope must move from the abstract to the particular.

“Easter people are called upon to celebrate the Festival of the Resurrection each Sunday, for each Sunday is a little Easter. ‘...Not neglecting to meet together,’ is how it is written in the book of Hebrews. To break fellowship with the worshiping community is to pursue a weakening faith. It is also a form of denial of all that Christ means. True faith, strong faith, is never faith in isolation but must always be faith shared and strengthened through regular worship. We must encourage one another to be regular in worship and strong in the faith.

“When the Lord of the church comes again, how will He find us? Will we be acting like people who have been touched by the meaning of the cross and the empty tomb? Therefore, let us continue to draw near to the Lord with a true heart and a confident faith. We hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering. We consider how to stir up one another to love and good works. We do not neglect to worship but encourage one another. In essence, we will all be Easter people!”

Article by John H. Krahn

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul

P. S. Please continue praying for the impending merger of St. Matthew’s congregation with our own!

Stewardship Corner

“Watch Out!”

Jesus said, “*Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions*” (Luke 12:15 NIV). Speaking to His disciples and us, Jesus warns about the selfish temptation of wanting more and more things. As God’s people, we are not expected to live as paupers. Having a desire for some comforts is normal. However, Jesus cautions His listeners about making riches the most important thing in their lives. We are to control our desire for things and not to be greedy. Rather than focusing on material possessions, we are urged to “*seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you*” (Matthew 6:33). Things of the world cannot fill the void that God put in us and meant for Jesus alone to fill.

So how are we able to guard against greed? Because of our sinful nature, we are unable by ourselves to stop focusing on worldly things. God calls us to be in the world but not of the world. As John wrote, “*Do not love the world or the things in the world*” (1 John 2:15).

The Apostle Paul knew both the secret of contentment and how to receive it. He wrote, “*...I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.*” Then he revealed his power source: *I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me*” (Philippians 4:12-13 NIV). The Holy Spirit is our power source too. He gives us new hearts that learn to love the will of God regardless of the circumstances in which we find ourselves. We become contented people, because we have a relationship with God, far richer than all the riches of the world.

Like Paul, we receive grateful hearts. With grateful hearts, we understand that we don’t deserve what we possess and enjoy. With grateful hearts, we see God’s grace and love that provide for our daily blessings. With grateful hearts, we can stop desiring riches. With grateful hearts, we are thankful for the little things that are often taken for granted. We are content because we are satisfied with whatever God gives us.

May God help us “watch out” so that our lives are not on a never-ending quest for more things. With God’s help, we can find our peace and contentment in Him.

We give You but Your own in any gifts we bring;
All that we have is Yours alone,
A trust from You, our King.

Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 1. 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) Hope Youth and men from the newly reformed Men’s club for a delicious Easter breakfast.
- 2) All who are supporting Hope Youth as they raise funds to go to the National Youth Gathering this summer.
- 3) All who brought things to the Rummage Sale;
- 4) All who worked to set up, clean up, and at the Sale.
- 5) Lowell & Linda Oberhaus for keeping the mound at the entrance to our parking lot looking good!

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

Memories of Mother

She carried me under her heart, loved me before I was born, took God’s hand and walked through the “valley of shadows” that I might live.

She bathed me when I was helpless, clothed me when I was naked, fed me when I was hungry, rocked me to sleep when I was weary, and sang to me as the voice of an angel.

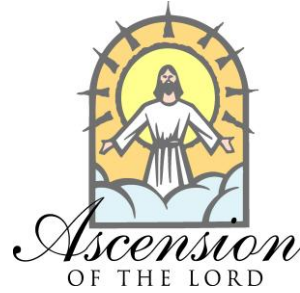
She held my hand when I learned to walk, suffered with my sorrow, laughed with my joy, glowed with my triumph, and while I knelt at her side, she taught my lips to pray.

She was a loyal friend when others failed. Through all the days of my youth, she gave me strength for my weakness, courage for my despair, and hope for my hopeless heart.

She prayed for me whether the day was flooded with sunshine or saddened by shadows. I can never repay the debt I owe to my mother.

Adapted.

Happy Mother’s Day
May 11



Ascension Worship Thursday, May 29

Dear Friends of Hope, Adrian,

We enjoyed being able to worship with you [on March 2]. And thanks for being my “students”! That was fun! All the fellowship was great and we appreciated the opportunity to share the Bible translation ministry with you. As partners, you and we together will cut the number of languages that still need a translated Bible to read or listen to. Thanks for your prayers and gifts.

Keep up the good Gospel work at Hope!

Jim & Susan Kaiser, Lutheran Bible Translators

Men’s Club Reorganizing

Several years ago we had a Men’s Group at Hope. Among our activities were preparing and serving the Easter Breakfast, hosting a Valentine’s Day event, and sponsoring dinners and speakers such as Bobb Vergiels, one-time Voice of the Tigers.

I am reorganizing the Men’s Group and am inviting the men of Hope to be a part of it. Let me know you are interested by calling me at 517-662-0790.

Mike Vergiels



Congratulations for successfully completing your studies and earning a High School diploma:

Emma Wetzel from Tecumseh High School

This is a Milestone for Emma. Please keep her in your personal prayers.

SALVATION IS FOUND IN NO ONE ELSE [THAN JESUS], FOR THERE IS NO OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN TO MEN BY WHICH WE MUST BE SAVED.

ACTS 4:12 (NIV)

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 29**, 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 29, 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, studying the same lessons with age-appropriate discussions and activities. We encourage families to talk about these lessons at home.

In May, Jim Logan and Ron Gentz will lead the adults as we study these lessons:

- May 4 – “*The Thankful One*”
(Luke 17:11-19)
- May 11 – “*The Kingdom of Children*”
(Luke 18:15-17)
- May 18 – “*The Passion Prediction*”
(John 12:1-8)
- May 25 – to be determined

Your living Word shine in our heart
And to a new life win us.
With seed of light implant the start
Of Christ-like deeds within us.
Help up uproot what is impure,
And while faith’s fruits in us mature,
Prepare us for Your harvest.
Words by Bartholomäus Ringwaldt

Baby Bottle Drive

May 11-June 15, 2025

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:

Pick up a baby bottle at church, fill with money or a check payable to CPC, and return by June 15.

OR:

1. Online at 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.

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.

If your circumstances have changed and you are having difficulty keeping up, please let Mary Martinal or Becky Martinal know so we can help.

Thanks be to God!
We are HIS!

Women's Ministry Spring Event – “Dearly Loved”

Our Women's Ministry Spring Event will be held at Hope on Saturday, May 10, the day before Mother's Day. The time is 11:00 a.m. Tickets are on sale NOW: \$8 for adults; \$4 for ages 5-12.

Ladies of all ages are invited. We will enjoy a simple meal and some laughs and some singing. The theme is “Dearly Loved”. We will learn some of what girls needed to know – in 1918! We'll also enjoy some fun activities and a lovely tea.

Didn't get tickets? 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 7.

Mighty Mites at Work

We praise and thank our mighty God for His love and His grace as we have reached the National Mite Goal for 2023-2025!

This month as you put money into your mite container, say a prayer for the Michigan District Mission Grant – Welcoming All God's Children through Lutheran Special Education Ministries.

Our Lord Jesus has instructed parents to bring up their children in the way of the Lord. He also said, “*Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these*” (Matthew 19:14).

Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) continues to reach out to serve children who have learning needs, helping these children remain in a Lutheran school setting to receive academic growth and to hear about God's love. LSEM is a national ministry headquartered in Michigan. LSEM has been serving children with learning needs since 1873 and is a leader in special needs education.

This grant of \$25,000.00 will purchase appropriate curriculum, materials, and equipment to support the growth and continued outreach of LSEM programs and services.

The Michigan District LWML, meeting in Grand Rapids in 2024, granted \$25,000.00 to enable the growth of LSEM programs, trusting that children who experience difficulty in learning will not be hindered and will come to Jesus.

Grace in Our Home

Ten years ago, my mom and I were tying pieces of silky purple ribbon to the top of dozens of lovely wedding bulletins. It was a few weeks before my wedding, and she and I had had so much fun getting everything ready for the big day. After all the months of planning, it was starting to all come together.

But as she read over our order of service, I saw her frown.

“Are you sure you want to include confession and absolution in your wedding?” she asked.

My mother, an amazing woman of faith, understandably wondered if it was a bit of a downer to stand by my future husband, in front of all my loved ones, in the most beautiful dress I’d ever worn, on the most important day of my life, and say: “I, a poor miserable sinner ...”

Amidst all the lace and candles and music and cake, we decided to include a bit of a reality check on our wedding day. Because even in our naïve twenty-two-year-old minds, my husband and I already knew we were sinners, and we’d undoubtedly sin against each other. We needed to build our marriage and our future family on a solid foundation of repentance and forgiveness in Jesus. Because despite the perfectly researched vacuum and coordinating towels on our registry, the wedding gift we needed most was grace.

Sin at Home

Maybe it’s just my experience, but it seems that people’s sinfulness is more apparent around the people they love than it is around strangers. In your own home, your guard is down. You’re not putting on a façade like you might do at work or church or school. You are completely yourself. And because yourself is both a saint and a sinner, well, both sides will likely come out.

When someone you don’t know very well is rude to you, you probably brush it off, and hopefully bite your tongue ... most of the time. But when your loved one is rude to you ... how dare they?! Can’t your spouse see how hard your day was? Can’t your kids respect you and just be grateful for once? Can’t your family member ever come through for you?

Now you want to say something equally snippy back at them. And just like that, your home is one of after-school meltdowns, impatient responses, passive-aggressive texts, and so on.

Grace at Home

When you feel the weight of sin in your closest relationships, do as Paul instructed the Colossians:

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (Colossians 3:12–14)

Easier said than done. It’s hard to bear with loved ones when they sin against us. It’s hard to be humble and admit we have sinned against them. And it’s hard to be patient—especially as a parent, let’s be honest. But we can do all this only through the perfect compassion, patience, and love of Jesus, who forgives us all our sins and enables us to forgive others.

So whether it’s your wedding day or just a Tuesday, pray for God’s grace to enter into your home and your family. Forgive and ask forgiveness. “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful” (Colossians 3:15).

Scripture: ESV®.

Youth Flower Sale

Hope Youth are holding a Flower Sale to raise funds for youth events this year. Order forms are available NOW. Call the Church Office if you do not have an order form. Pick-up your flowers on Saturday, May 10 or after church on Mother's Day, May 11. Don't forget to get that hanging basket for Mother's Day! Thanks for your support of Hope Youth!



Easter Services

Don't forget to get that hanging basket for Mother's Day! Thanks for your support of Hope Youth!

Advice for Your Spring Planting

First, plant five rows of Peas:

Prayer
Promptness
Preparedness
Perseverance
Politeness

Next, plant three rows of Squash:

Squash gossip
Squash criticism
Squash indifference

Then plant five rows of Lettuce:

Let us be faithful
Let us be loyal
Let us be unselfish
Let us be truthful
Let us be loving toward one another

Finally, no garden is complete without Turnips:

Turn up for church
Turn up with a smile
Turn up with a new idea
Turn up with determination

Cultivate all year long!!!

NEED A SPRING TUNE-UP?

1. Adjust your lights so others may see your good works and glorify your Father Who is in heaven.
2. Set your timing so as to be on time for every worship service.
3. Tune your heart and have the peace that passes all understanding.
4. For a quick start and a sure victory, be ready to do the Lord's will.
5. Adjust the brakes on your tongue for it is in a slippery place. A slip of the tongue can cause great damage to another.
6. Refill your heart with the Word of God that it might be a light unto your feet and path.
7. Go into the highways and hedges to bring in the unchurched that the Lord's House may be filled.

Applying Biblical Teachings

"Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you" (1 Thessalonians 4:11 NIV).

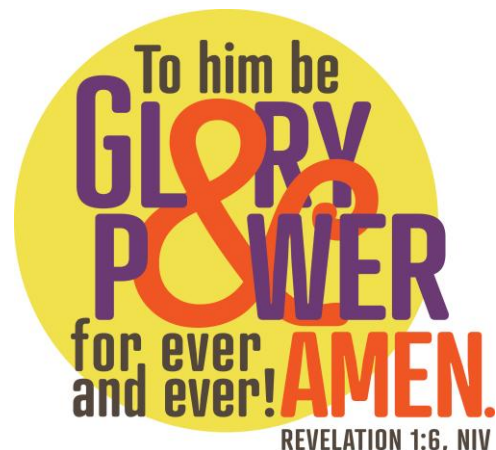
Peace and harmony are the last things Satan wants in a Christian's life. He constantly tries to stir up our sinful hearts to cause adversity and dissension. He appeals to our sinful human reason to entangle and unsettle us. Satan wants us to follow our own sinful human reason and hearts and not devote ourselves to our duty and calling. He wants us to become involved in much foolishness and to have disturbances surround us.

When we allow strife, contention, and division of our own making to surround us, we endanger our faith and are a hindrance to the work of the church. We become meddlers, busy-bodies and roadblocks to the work of the Gospel. We may even show our dissatisfaction with our Lord and our church by withholding our first-fruits offerings and our God-given gifts and talents.

In his first letter to the Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul told us to strive to live Christian lives of godliness and honesty. We mind our own affairs and work diligently at our calling and in fulfilling our duties. By the working of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel message, we study to be quiet toward others, to be a of a calm and quiet temper, and to be a of a peaceable disposition. We do not withhold from our Lord what rightfully belongs to Him and His work here at and through Hope congregation.

We must always remember that Christ's suffering and death did not discharge us from our duties and calling in life. Rather the Holy Spirit guides us to carry out God's will with diligence. And through His power, in Christ, our hearts and minds are quieted.

In Christ, we also live this Christian life of quiet diligence as God's Word tells us to do: so that our daily life may win the respect of outsiders (1 Thessalonians 4:12) and that they may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:15).



May Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Vikki Ritzert	2
Jonathan Henzi	14
Darlene Fink	17
Warren Reichert	17
Norman Knight	18
Cynthia Reichert	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
Haley Wetzel	30
Bill Posten	31

Wedding Anniversaries

Paul & Becky Martinal	5
Tom & Jennifer Sande	20
Jim & Kay Logan	25
Warren & Cynthia Reichert	25

Baptismal Anniversaries

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



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
- that God would guide the Board of Regents for Concordia, Ann Arbor & Wisconsin
- For Hope – that God would bless our 2025 Administrative Board
- that God would bless and grow our Sunday School, our congregation, Youth Ministry
- For those who grieve: families of: Rev. Ron Farah; Trent McClain's Dad; Gerald Giraud
- For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

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Mike & Patti Vergiels	Bob & Joann Wachter	Margaret Parker
Ruth Lamley-Prielipp	Dene Minnema	Mike & Patsy Broge
Sherrell & Danielle Hofbauer	Mike Griffith (eyes)	Les Howard
Hans & Arleen Jacobsson	Mary Jane Hull	Jim Ritzert
Marcia Albain (eyes/balance)	Tricia Moyer-Fowler	Marilyn Caggiano
Stephanie Butler	Ryan Liske	Sharon Neal (broken hip)
Fonda Bozeman (infection)	Thomas Groh	Mary Ellen Moyer
Ralph & Wanda Saylor	Irma Morrild (Alzheimer's)	Laurie Moll
Elaine Stevenson	Ralph Wetzel	Rich Klann
Sandra Wilson	Dave Allwardt	Diane Allwardt
Zachary Young (epilepsy)	Sharron Nossie	Shannon Zeller (foot)
Keith Richardson	Steve & Mike Weisenfelder	Donna Bell (heart)
Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)	Kari Gulliksen (osteoporosis)	Marti Hudelston
Jeff Moyer (stroke)	Gary Allen (cancer)	James Carter (cancer)
Marcy & Michael Palmiter (cancer)	Doug Thumm (cancer)	Barb Hauch (cancer)
Jerry Allen (cancer)	Sherri Falzone (cancer)	Jerry Pierce (cancer)
Mike Snyder (cancer)	William Crego (cancer)	Kelsie Elling (cancer)

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
[C] = Communion				1 Nat'l Day of Prayer	2	3
4 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am SS & ABC Class & Confirmation 6:30-8pm- Hope Youth	5 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	6 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	7 6:30pm Bible Study	8 1:00pm Games	9	10 11:00am Women's Ministry Spring Event at Hope
11 5th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am SS & ABC Class & Confirmation 6:30-8pm- Hope Youth	12 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	13 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	14 6:30pm Bible Study	15	16	17
18 6th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am SS & ABC Class & Confirmation 6:30-8pm- Hope Youth	19 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Elders	20 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	21 6:30pm Bible Study Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24
25 7th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am SS & ABC Class & Confirmation	26 Memorial Day Office Closed	27 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr. 4:30pm Admin Bd.	28 6:30pm Bible Study	29 Ascension 6:30pm Ascension Eve Worship [C]	30	31

May 2025 Servant Schedule

May 4	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: John Butler; READERS: Sue Muck, John Butler; USHERS: Tom & Jacob Sande; COMMUNION: Hilda Cortez; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:
May 11	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Bill Kohn; READERS: Jennifer Sande, Bill Kohn; USHERS: John & Jay Butler; COMMUNION: the Sande Family; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:
May 18	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Rick Wetzel; READERS: Reicherts, Rick Wetzel; USHERS: James P. Sheridan; COMMUNION: Sue Muck & Sara Hackney; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:
May 25	9:00 a.m.	ELDER: Ron Gentz; READERS: Carol Herter, Ron Gentz; USHERS: Tom & Jacob Sande; COMMUNION: Mike & Darlene Fink; ACOLYTE: ; GREETER:
May 29	6:30 p.m.	ELDER/READER: Ron Gentz; COMMUNION: Martinals

Hail Our Risen & Ascended Lord