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The Messenger

November
2017

Pastor

The Rev. Paul Herter

Youth/Family Life

Becky Martinal, D.C.E.

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)
3:45pm Kids' Club
6:30 p.m. (adults)

Give Thanks to God!

Dear Ones who have been so Richly Blessed in Christ Jesus:

The month of November on the church calendar begins with All Saints Day and concludes with the beginning of Advent. In between, there is a focus on the end times and the celebration of our national holiday – Thanksgiving Day.

Unfortunately, Thanksgiving is pretty much obscured falling between Halloween and Christmas. Also, in our increasingly secularized society, many people don't know what to give thanks for and, more importantly, Who to give thanks to! While looking up a related topic on the Internet, I found a curious statement: "the **Universe** appreciates gratitude" – probably some person's evolutionary replacement for a personal God. I never realized that some nonliving entity could have emotion and feelings of gratitude (and of course, it doesn't)!

While visiting Uncle John's cider mill near St. John's Michigan on one of our regular autumn treks, I happen to see a wall plaque with these words: "**Gratitude turns what we have into Enough.**" Turns out it's actually a shortened version of the following quote by Melody Beattie: "Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow." An amazing quote! It almost sounds like something out of the Bible!

Indeed, it sounds very similar to the writings of the apostle Paul in Holy Scripture. For example, from Philippians, chapter 4, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances." And this, "godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that." (1 Timothy 6:6-7) And this, from Hebrews 13:5, "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" Or even our Lord Jesus Himself in Matthew 8:20: "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

Although there are many homeless in our communities, I would guess that those of you reading this are not among them. We should do what we can to help those who are homeless such as through the "Share the Warmth" project every winter in our community. But my point is: we are blessed above and beyond the material life of our Lord Jesus Christ as well as the apostle Paul. Most of the other disciples mentioned in Scripture were in a similar situation and those who were well-to-do were very generous with their wealth to help out others (with some glaring exceptions – see Acts 5:1-11.)

Do you recall this from Martin Luther's explanation to the First Article of the Apostles' Creed: "I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true."

(continued on page 2)

Lord, What Would You Have Me Give?

So much of life revolves around money. We make money, spend it, save it, waste it, hoard it, and we give it. We are bombarded daily with financial decisions ranging from buying a cup of coffee to buying a car. One of the most important decisions regarding our money is what we will give to the Lord through our churches. Certainly our financial circumstances affect our giving, but by far the biggest factor is our spiritual maturity. By God's grace, we understand that God is the Source of all good things and that He owns all things. All that we are and have are gifts from God. By our giving, we are merely returning to God what He has already given to us. With hearts filled with gratitude knowing who God is and what He has given to us and done for us, our question might become, "How much of God's money am I going to keep?"

For Christians, giving is not an option. God is the infinitely perfect Giver. He has given us our physical lives and our redeemed lives through Jesus. God's nature is to give and that giving nature is seen in Jesus Who gave lovingly, constantly, graciously, compassionately, and sacrificially. The Apostle Paul tells us, "*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children*" (Ephesians 5:1). Because giving is inherent in God's character, when we give, we reflect His likeness.

Some of us are given much materially while others have received less. Whatever God entrusts to us we are to use faithfully and responsibly. God has chosen to use us to spread the Gospel, and money is an important tool to support the mission and ministry of God's Church. The funding of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) needs to come from believers. The money which God entrusts to us has many purposes, and the funding of mission work is of first importance. Through the giving of our money, we demonstrate our obedience to Jesus' command to reach out to all people.

As we spend time in God's Word seeking His guidance to the question as to what we are to give, we are reminded of His Biblical truths regarding giving. God wants us to give the first portion of our incomes (Proverbs 3:9), give regularly (1 Corinthians 16:2), and give generously of our incomes (2 Corinthians 9:13). In His Word, God promises to bless us through our giving (Proverbs 3:10; Luke 6:38). As we prayerfully consider what God wants us to give, let us remember these words from the Apostle Paul, "*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in [your giving].*" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

Pastor's Article, cont.

Finally, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thess.5:18) Indeed, we have much for which to be thankful!

"Come you thankful people, come... God, our Maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied. Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home!" LW 495 v. 1

God has blessed us! Let us give thanks!

Pastor Paul

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from a psalm of thanksgiving: "Bless the LORD, O my _____, and forget not all his benefits."

A. people	B. soul
C. heart	D. children

Answer: B (See Psalm 103:2, ESV)

September 2017 Stewardship Summary

Average Church Attendance: 101
 Average Holy Communion Attendance: 42
 Education Hour - Adults & Youth: 26; Confirmation & Elementary: 5

Receipts/Income Need

General Fund:	\$14,453.25
Memorials:	\$155.00
Benevolence:	\$10.00
Total Giving:	\$14,618.25
Other Income:	\$110.00
Expenses Paid:	\$24,347.60
Net Income for September	-\$9,729.35

Balances

Checking Account:	\$22,080.83
Savings Account:	\$68,976.37

Giving Averages (Approximate)

May 2016	\$4,500.00 per week
June 2016	\$3,500.00 per week
July 2016	\$4,300.00 per week
August 2016	\$3,600.00 per week
September 2016	\$3,900.00 per week
May 2017	\$3,800.00 per week
June 2017	\$3,400.00 per week
July 2017	\$3,900.00 per week
August 2017	\$4,200.00 per week
September 2017	\$3,600.00 per week



We urge every communicant member of Hope to attend our annual **Voters' Meeting on Sunday,**

November 12, at 1:30 p.m. We'll enjoy a shared meal at 12:15 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass. Ham will be provided.

We will discuss and set the budget for 2018 and hold our annual election of officers.

We will look forward to your attendance. Whether or not you are able to attend, please pray that God will lead our congregation in a direction pleasing to Him.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is the annual collection of shoeboxes filled with school supplies and small gifts which are then given to victims of war, poverty, disease and natural disaster around the world to demonstrate God's love.



To participate, pick up an empty shoebox from the box in the lobby and fill with school supplies and small toys and personal care items,

but **no toothpaste or candy**. Include a personal note and photo of yourself. You may prepare a box for a child aged 2-4, or 5-9, or 10-14. Mark the box with the age range and whether it's for a boy or a girl. Finally, include \$9.00 to cover shipping costs. (Checks should be made out to Samaritan's Purse and note that it's for Operation Christmas Child.) For more information, visit www.samaritanspurse.org.

Please drop off your filled shoebox on or before Sunday, November 12.

Questions may be addressed to Vikki Ritzert at (517) 260-5557.

Angel Tree

In late November you will see the Angel Tree in our lobby. Names from the Salvation Army will be available to take and return an UNWRAPPED gift with the name attached to the bag it is in. Make sure you sign the sheet to let us know which name(s) you have taken.

Happy Thanksgiving

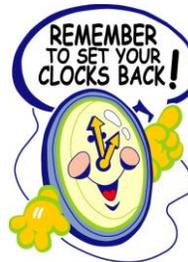
Important news about meals

It is up to each and one of you to voice your opinion on

- 1) If you would like to see the Wednesday night meals continue this Fall.
- 2) If you are able and willing to be a part of a cooking team once a month.
- 3) If you are willing and able to help with clean up after the meal.
- 4) If you are willing to oversee the 5th Wednesday meal prep (November 29th and January 31st) and find others to help clean up afterward.

Sharron Sheridan will try to coordinate the crews if you will do your part in contacting her, even telling her you are not interested in participating in any way. Call, text or email her with your answer NO. Her contact information is sharron.sheridan@frontier.com or call or text her at 517-403-0065.

Daylight Savings Time ENDS



Daylight Savings Time ends the 1st Sunday in November. What does this mean? **We need to turn our clocks BACK one hour at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, November 5.** So... change your clocks before going to sleep Saturday, November 6!

Thanksgiving Worship



"Come, ye thankful people, come!" God has blessed each of us so richly every day and we so often forget to say "Thank You!" We stop and make time to say, "Thank You, God!" on **Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 22, at 6:30 p.m.**

Bring your company to our service.

Advent Worship



Advent begins Sunday, December 3. We will again hold Advent worship on Wednesdays – **November 29, December 6, 13, and 20 – at 6:30 p.m.** Join us as we prepare to welcome our Savior!

Women of Hope!

At our Meeting Nov 13th we will be making wreaths either using coffee filters or pine cones that we hope to donate to places such as nursing homes to use for center pieces. If you wish it could be a make one take one. We will need hot glue guns and glue sticks to complete the projects.

Women's Christmas Party

Our party will take place Saturday, December 2nd beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the home of the Herters. All women are invited to attend whether they have secret sisters or not. Bring a dish to pass, preferably hors d'oeuvres or finger food and a wrapped ornament for our annual ornament game. For those who are part of the Secret Sisters, you will complete this year with your current Secret Sister and begin the New Year with another if you wish to continue or if you wish to take part in this activity for 2018. This year we will not take time at the party to complete our information sheet but rather complete it at home in our leisure but by the end of 2017. Let Sharron know if you want to be a part of the Secret Sister program before the end of 2017.



You are the Face of LWML!

Rummage Sale Thanks!

Thank you, Hope congregation, for your great support of this fall's Rummage Sale! Thank you to everyone who donated items, to all those who came in and helped sort, set out, and price the donated items, to all those who helped during the Sale, and, finally, to those who helped box up the unsold items.

We realized about \$1,800 from the Sale! Some unsold items were picked up by Neighbors of Hope – Blessings and More. Other unsold items were taken to other charities in the area.

Pig and Jig

Where do I begin ☺ I would like to give a wicked tight hug to each and every one you who made the Pig N Jig come together. It took many, many helping hands to get this done. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Judy Theung, Outreach Chair

Mighty Mites at Work

Thank you to all who brought in mites during October! God bless you!

What are "mites"? Mites are our change – coins of all denominations and perhaps some folding money as well – from our shopping which we place in a special container to be 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.



"September 18, 2017

To our brothers and sisters in Christ,

On behalf of my sister Joy Lulham and myself, we want to thank you very much for the nice floral arrangement that the Hope congregation sent for our mother, Madaline Kidd-Howard. We want to especially thank you for the wonderful luncheon at the church after the funeral service. The good food and good fellowship was a comfort to our family. May God bless the Hope congregation for your demonstration of love in action. Once again we want to express our thanks for your compassion that touched our hurting hearts.

Sincerely,

Larry W. Kidd"

"October 3, 2017

Dear Pastor Herter,

Thank you and your congregation for your generous gift of \$510.00 in support of the Military BibleStick program.

This time of year as the seasons change and the holidays quickly approach, it is wonderful to have friends like you who make sure God's Word continues to reach active-duty service members and veterans from all branches of the military. One service member writes:

'At times like this it's so wonderful to know we still and always will have God on our side. To hear His words today and daily gives strength and courage to carry on.' Specialist, U. S. Army

On their behalf – *thank you!*

'til all have heard,

Troy Carl, Vice President"

November Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Briahna Neal	1
Larry Powers	8
Rick Wetzel	8
Mark Goodson	10
Gail Saylor	11
Maynard Howard	14
Adam Liske	15
Amelia Martinal	17
Jennifer Sande	18

Birthdays, cont.

Lisa Goodson	24
Marnella Liske Campbell	25
Sharron Sheridan	25
Aaron Liske	30

Baptismal

Anniversaries

Madysen Fowler	2
Kathy Louden	7
Rick Wetzel	19

Wedding Anniversaries

Bob & Elaine Stevenson	25
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We Pray This Month:

For the Nations of the world for peace, recovery and healing from their troubles & storms

For Our Nation –

that God would guide and protect all voters and elected officials
 that God would provide comfort and support to all who are suffering loss
 that God would guide our schools, colleges, and universities to useful learning
 that God would guide and protect our military wherever they are serving.

For His Church –

that God would strengthen and protect all His people and move them to witness boldly

For Hope –

that God would guide our Administrative Board as they do their work and would raise godly leaders to assist us in fulfilling our mission for God
 that God would guide us as we meet and make decisions on November 13
 that God would bless and grow our Sunday School, our congregation, our youth ministry

For Those who grieve: families of: Betty Villarreal, Eugene Parros, Ed McGuire, Elena (Hilda Cortez' godchild), Jacob Knisel, Garry Miller

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Myrna Sheldon, shut-in	DeLight Sieler (shut-in)	Linda Kitchen (foot)
Maryann LeBlanc, shut-in	Dave & Dee Weisenfelder	Virginia Woodard, shut-in
Dee Weisenfelder (Oct. surg.)	Patti Vergiels (Oct. surg.)	Margaret Parker
Bonnie Posten (eyes)	Ron & Dianne Gentz	Maynard Howard
Esther von Fange	Mike Griffith (injured leg)	Dorothy Studnicka
Dolores Flores (needs new liver)	Dave Allwardt	Val Villarreal
Fonda Bozeman (arthritis)	Larry & Betty Bendes	Lois Metz (stroke)
Ethan Jameson	Bill & Jeanie Landry	Phyllis Hackney
Diana Gulliksen	Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)	Bill Henes
Israel Woolwine	Steve Johnson (stroke)	Dick & Sharon Baron
Jill LaFray (cancer)	Christopher Keefe (cancer)	Gregg Woods (cancer)
Jane Schwartz (cancer)	Christy Lemley (cancer)	Joe Eaton (cancer)
Joe Eaton (cancer)	Marvin Howard (cancer)	Paul James (cancer)
Leonard Schiefer (cancer)	Todd McCrate (cancer)	Kay Nickel (cancer)

We give thanks to God for His many blessings.

Contact the Church Office, 263-4317 or hopelcms@tc3net.com, with new requests and/or updates.

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November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10am Ladies Study 3:45pm Kids' Club 6:30pm Bible Study	2 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir	3	4
5 All Saints' Day Daylight Savings Time Ends at 2:00 a.m. 8:30am Classic Praise [C] 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song 12:30pm Youth Group	6	7 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr 7pm HS Small Groups	8 10am Ladies Study 3:45pm Kids' Club 6:30pm Bible Study	9 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir	10	11
12 23 rd Sunday a. Pentecost 8:30am Classic Praise 10am Education Hour 11:00am New Song [C] 12:15pm Meal / Voters Mtg	13 6pm Hope Women Newsletter Deadline	14 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr 7pm HS Small Groups	15 10am Ladies Study 3:45pm Kids' Club 6:30pm Bible Study	16 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir	17	18
19 24 th Sunday a. Pentecost 8:30am Classic Praise [C] 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song 1:00pm Admin Bd. Mtg 12:30pm Youth Thanks.	20	21 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr 7pm HS Small Groups	22 10am Ladies study 6:30pm Thanksgiving Worship	23 Thanksgiving Office Closed	24	25
26 Christ the King Sunday 8:30am Classic Praise 10:00am Education Hour 11:00am New Song [C]	27 6pm Admin. Board	28 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr 7pm HS Small Groups	29 10am Ladies study 3:45pm Kids' Club 6:30pm Advent Worship	30 9:30am Home School Group 7:15pm Choir		[C] = Communion

November 2017 Servant Schedule

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

Nov. 5 8:30 a.m. **ELDER:** Bill Kohn; **ELDER ASS'T:** Jerry Johnson; **LITURGY ASS'T:** Bill Kohn; **READER:** Sue Muck;
COMMUNION: Jerry & Phyllis Johnson
 11:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Jon Henzi; **WORSHIP LEADER:** Paul Martinal; **READERS:** Becky and Mary Martinal

Nov. 12 8:30 a.m. **ELDER:** John Butler; **LITURGY ASS'T:** Jim Logan; **READER:** Judy Parros
 11:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Bill Posten; **ELDER ASS'T:** Otto Bilkey; **WORSHIP LEADER:** Rick Wetzel; **READER:** Carol Herter;
COMMUNION: the Sande Family

Nov. 19 8:30 a.m. **ELDER:** John Butler; **ELDER ASS'T:** Jim Logan; **LITURGY ASS'T:** Dick Kuntz; **READER:** Judy Theung;
COMMUNION: Linda Kitchen and Arleen Jacobsson
 11:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Dale Martinal; **WORSHIP LEADER:** Dale Martinal; **READER:** Youth

Nov. 22 6:30 p.m. **ELDER:** Bill Posten; **READER:** Mike Vergiels

Nov. 26 8:30 a.m. **ELDER:** Bill Kohn; **LITURGY ASS'T:** Jerry Johnson; **READER:** Sue Muck
 11:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Rick Wetzel; **ELDER ASS'T:** Jon Henzi; **WORSHIP LEADER:** Jon Henzi; **READER:** Helen Bendes;
COMMUNION: Richard & Maryann Hoyt

Nov. 29 6:30 p.m. **ELDER:** John Butler; **READER:** John Butler