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## The Messenger

October  
2024

**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.

## God – the Ultimate Authority

Dear Ones in Christ,

When I first came to Hope, some 35 years ago, I remember preaching a sermon on a couple of the great moral cultural challenges that the Church needed to properly address by the Word of God: namely, homosexuality and abortion on demand. Since then, those issues, and a plethora of others, have greatly increased in social/cultural acceptance, particularly in the last couple of years.

The big question then and now (and actually further back into the '50s and '60s) is this: **What do we regard as the ultimate authority in America?** Is it God and His Word, or is it human government? Our forebear in the faith, Martin Luther, once stated that whatever a person looks to for the ultimate good in life, that is their god! More and more I fear, the people of our country – both Christians and unbelievers – are looking to government as the one who will provide for their ultimate good in life.

Recently, in the media, there was a woman who described disparagingly certain Christians as believing that human rights ultimately come from God instead of government! I plead guilty to that charge! Not only do I derive this belief from my faith, but from my American citizenship. As it is stated in the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men [people] are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Apparently, these “truth” are not “self-evident” anymore!

Since the passage of the 2015 gay marriage decision by the US Supreme Court – intended to pacify the Human Rights Campaign and other homosexual activists – a whole new radical ideology has emerged, identified as LGBTQIA+. No longer is mere toleration expected from the public, but a full-throated acceptance and endorsement, or...face the consequences. The State and Federal administrations, here in Michigan and in Washington D.C., have passed or enforced provisions to give preferred accommodation to those who practice and support this ideology.

In 2022, the US Supreme Court returned the issue of abortion and its regulation back to the individual States. With the hue and cry of abortion activists and abortion providers like Planned Parenthood, one would think the Supreme Court had outlawed abortion in the land. Sadly, with the continuing tacit approval of abortion on demand as the answer to overpopulation and “the climate crisis,” we have paid in blood with the sacrifice of tens of millions of human lives snuffed out while still in their mother’s wombs. And, although many in government refuse to state it out loud – including the Democrat nominee for President – the abortionists have no moral compunction about taking the unborn child’s life up to and including the moment of birth! Indeed, there are at least six states and the District of Columbia that legally will not save the life of the child that survived the attempted abortion! LORD, have mercy!

Even many years ago, I remember when some Christian leaders made the remark that, “if God doesn’t punish America, He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.”

The only real answer for our country or any people is the same answer that God gave to ancient Israel, “Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity.” (Joel 2:12-13)

Yours in our living LORD!  
Pastor Paul

## Stewardship Corner

### Under New Management

When a business such as a restaurant changes ownership, we may see a sign that reads, “Under New Management.” The restaurant will often change the menu, the service, and even the décor. The old restaurant is hardly recognizable. So it is with our lives in Christ. St. Paul writes, *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me”* (Galatians 2:20). In essence, we live under new management. The old godless person is hardly recognizable as the new person in Jesus is created. *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation”* (2 Corinthians 5:17). God is now in control of our lives. We have a new Father, master and a new purpose: to live for Christ.

Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord of the world, alone meets our needs perfectly. His love, given as He sacrificed Himself for the world conquering death and sin, is the “drawing power”—drawing us away from selfish desires and sinful habits and pulling us to real peace and joy in Christ. His love changes the direction of our lives from self to Him Who has made and redeemed us all. Living for Christ allows no room for self-love that denies the priority of God and of service to others both within and outside our congregation. The compelling love of Christ pulls us away from a gratification of our old nature and of sinful desires or of seeking security in earthly things and human ingenuity and strength.

God’s love is the energizing power so essential to every life. Christ’s love summons us to a secure and joyful life of repentance, forgiveness, and fruitful service. Indeed, *“Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died”* (2 Corinthians 5:14 NIV). Under Christ’s new management, we *“no longer live for [ourselves] but for Him Who died and was raised”* (2 Corinthians 5:15). As new people in Christ, we see our blessings as gifts from God that are to be used to serve Him by loving and serving others. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we recognize our time, talents, and treasures as tools to be used in ways to advance God’s kingdom.

We do not wear signs that read, Under New Management, but our thoughts, deeds, and purpose give evidence to the new management. We have new attitudes and new actions.

## Comstock Park Christmas

Hope will again have a Christmas tree at the Comstock Park Christmas Tree Festival. We will decorate our tree with winter wear – hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, hand warmers, socks – that can be taken off the tree. Donations of these cold weather-fighting items may be given to Darlene Fink.

Tree-lighting is Friday, December 6. Activities begin at 5:00 p.m. The parade sets off at 7:00 p.m. with the lighting of all the trees at 7:30 p.m. Come to downtown Adrian and enjoy the festivities!

## Fellowship Time Hosts Needed

Help during fellowship time is needed. A sign-up sheet is available so you can see which Sundays are open.

If you like to bake and have freezer space, you could make things in advance to help fill some of the voids. Clean up is part of the commitment.

## Rummage Sale is October 3-4

Rummage sale items need to be in no later than Wednesday, October 2. This is the day that items will be priced. Anyone interested in helping to price items needs to come Wednesday. Help is needed for the 2 days of the sale. Talk to Sharron or Kathy Brevoort.

## Drug Take-Back Day

*Saturday, October 26, 2024*

*10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.*

*Promedica Hickman Hospital*

*5640 N. Adrian Hwy.*

*Adrian, Michigan*

Safely dispose of your unused, unwanted, or expired medications, sharps, and liquids during the Drive-Thru Drug Take-Back Day. Learn more at [www.DrugPreventionLenawee.com](http://www.DrugPreventionLenawee.com).

## Enduring Faith

Our Sunday morning Bible Classes, both adult and 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 October, Ron Gentz and Jim Logan will lead the adults as we study these lessons:

October 6 –

*“A Jail Bail”*  
[God frees Peter]  
(Acts 12)

October 13 –

*“On Your Feet”*  
[Paul & Barnabas confused with God]  
(Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18)

October 20 –

*“The Gentile Cause”*  
[A Church Meeting]  
(Acts 15:1-14, 22-35)

October 26 – Pastor Paul will lead us in a topic to be announced.



*“All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of the Lord stands forever.”*

1 Peter 1:24-25



## Mark Your Calendars!

Our annual Voters Assembly will be held on **Sunday, November 10**. We'll elect officers and set a budget for 2025 and further discuss other to-be-announced items of business.

If you have ever wanted to be more informed about what is happening at Hope, serving on the Administrative Board is the way to go. Consider serving if asked or, better yet, tell Sharron Sheridan of your interest. **We have several leadership positions to fill. Remember, God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called.**

We urge every member of the Congregation to attend all meetings to keep up on the issues being addressed and to express your thoughts.

We'll look forward to seeing you all on November 10, for our annual Voters Assembly.

## Operation: Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are delivered together with the Good News of Jesus Christ as expressions of

God's immense love for a child. Include a quality "wow" item (and other new toys), school supplies and personal care items. A donation of \$10 per shoebox is critical to help cover expenses involved in this ministry.

**National Collection Week is Nov. 18–25, 2024.**

We encourage you to go to [samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/](http://samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/) for more information and to build a shoebox online. If you would like help to fill a box online, talk to Becky

Thank you for participating in this worthwhile project.

# Written on Their Hearts

Psalm 119:15–16 states, “I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.” When I read this verse, I cannot help but feel *just slightly* guilty. You see, I definitely do not know Scripture as well as I would like. I feel like I have a pretty good excuse, I wasn’t raised with the Bible in my household. But at the end of the day, it’s an excuse. Psalm 119 not only reminds me of my desire to remember God’s Word but that I desire for my children to have the Word stored up in their hearts (see Psalm 119:11).

This is a desire I feel utterly unqualified to fulfill. I consider myself a “pioneer parent,” a parent who did not have the examples of Christian parents during his or her childhood. I simply didn’t learn Scripture as a child, and I’m sure I’m not the only parent who is learning alongside his or her children (or learning it again!). One of the best ways to meditate and fix our eyes on the way of the Lord with our children is to start the daunting task of memorizing Scripture.

## Do It Together

I want to emphasize, this is a benefit to both you and your children. In Deuteronomy 6, God tells us to memorize Scripture. We are to do it ourselves and teach our children to do so as well. While we aren’t held to Old Testament laws as a source of our salvation, they are still God’s desires for His people. For me, one of my fears about this is I have lost the skill of memorization.

As adults, we don’t have many reasons to learn recitations anymore. Maybe as a teen you had to memorize parts of the catechism or Scripture as a part of confirmation. Or maybe your Lutheran grade school had it baked into the curriculum. Outside of church, maybe you were a part of a local theater and had to learn lines. Maybe you memorized something to study for a test in school. But now, where in your adult life have you been asked to memorize or recite?

That’s why I want to remind you of the beauty of doing it together. This shows your children directly that you have a stake in this process.

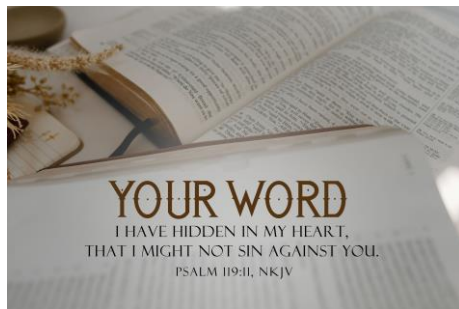
## Picking Verses

How do you choose Scripture to memorize? Well, that will depend on the age of your children and your own preferences. Here are my personal ideas for what makes a good memory verse.

**Start simple:** Find verses with words they understand. While it is always a good thing for your kids to come to you with words they don’t know yet or well, your children will find it easier if they already have a general understanding of the words they are being asked to memorize.

**Already memorable:** The first and only Bible verse I had memorized before beginning my journey as a Christian was John 3:16. I suggest finding verses your children are already familiar with. This includes verses that are often used during worship or are coming up in worship (such as verses used in the liturgy each week!).

**For prayer:** My two-year-old has recently started reciting the Lord’s Prayer with us. How wonderful is it to hear her sweet voice say these words! We have always prayed the Lord’s Prayer with her during our bedtime routine. Because she is getting more confident in these words, we may switch to a different nighttime psalm to pray!



## Strategies

After choosing verses, how do you go about memorizing them? Let’s walk through a few examples of how we can differentiate recitation.

**Say it often:** Just say the words over and over again. Not the most exciting, but it’s effective. Ultimately, this is exactly how we memorize.

**Write it out:** For kiddos who know their letters, write out the full verse with them.

As a bonus, use a whiteboard. Write it out, ask them to read it, erase one word, and ask them to recite the whole verse. Rinse and repeat.

**First letter:** Write out the first letter of each word in the verse on an index card. For example: John 3:16 would look like this:

F G S L T W T H G H O S  
T W B I H S N P B H E L

Keep the card handy and use it as a visual resource to help your family remember each word in the verse.

(continued on next page)

## Written on Their Hearts, cont.

Music as a resource: I don't know about you, but I find it easier to memorize music lyrics than straight words. There are many recordings available to help you learn to sing the Bible! I love using the Bible verse songs from VBS! Having actions in the videos also helps.

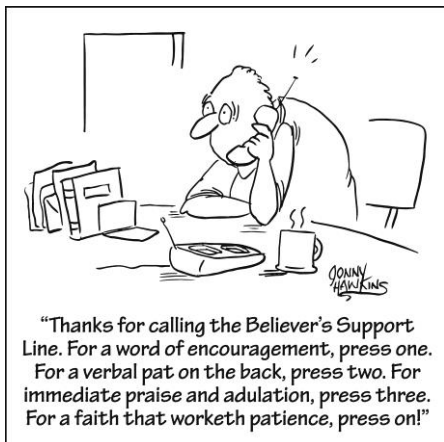
Movement as a resource: Ask your kids to join you in creating motions to go alongside the words! By intentionally creating or utilizing movement, your kinetic learners will easily grasp the memory verse.

### Just Start

Are you ready to memorize Paul's entire letter to the Philippians? If you shook your head no, just know that I am shaking my head alongside you and your kids. And that's okay. But I am waving the green flag and asking you to begin this memorization journey!

Memorizing God's Word not only is a command, but it also equips you and your children for your walk with Christ in this broken world. It brings comfort to be able to recall how God has specifically given words that speak to moments of uncertainty and fear. His Word reminds us of our baptismal identity and saturates our minds with truth—working to block out the lies of Satan and replace them with God's promises. And it grows our ability to witness. When people in life ask you or your children, "Did God actually say . . ." (Genesis 3:1), you can remember and answer with the truth of His Word.

All we have to do is start. And soon we will have Scripture written on our family's hearts (Jeremiah 31:33).



## The Anchor of the Line

*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.* Proverbs 4:23

In the strategy of war, certain cities are designated as "the anchors of the line." As long as these hold, the enemy cannot advance. But as soon as these fall, the whole line begins to crumble, and the hour of defeat is close at hand.

It was of such an "anchor city" that Solomon spoke when he said: "*Keep thy heart* with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." It is in the heart that the tide of battle in the Christian life is determined.

When faith has gone out of the heart, when convictions have become flabby, when carelessness and indifference have made their inroads, the citadel has fallen, and the whole line is doomed to crumble. But if the heart remains firm, rooted surely in the promises of God, undergirded by faith in the Gospel, and reinforced by daily prayer and close communion with our God, the whole line will hold – for the "anchor city" has proved impregnable.

How is it with us in this respect? Is our "anchor city" holding? Surely, we have no reason for smug complacency. Our anchor city is under fire. The devil, the world, and our flesh have conspired to unhinge its gates and to take its citadel by storm. Let us "watch and pray." Let us "be sober and vigilant." Let us "put on the Gospel armor, each piece put on with prayer." Let us hold ever more firmly to the Word. God's Word is our defense. As long as we rely on His Word as our "shield and buckler," we can sing with Martin Luther:

*With might of ours can naught be done,  
Soon were our loss effected;  
But for us fights the Valiant One,  
Whom God Himself elected.  
Ask ye, Who is this?  
Jesus Christ it is,  
Of Sabaoth Lord,  
And there's none other God;  
**He holds the field forever!***

How important it is that we turn over the defense of our "anchor city" (our heart) to "Jesus Christ, of Sabaoth Lord." He'll keep it safe forever!

By Hermon W. Gockel, *Daily Walk with God Meditations for Every Day*, copyright © 1982 Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri.

## Irish Hills Zone Rally

The Fall Rally of the Irish Hills Zone of the Michigan District-Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) will be held at St. Mark, Brooklyn, on Saturday, October 12, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided. We will hear from Dr. Becky Grossman on her work in Africa with Lutheran Bible Translators.

Let Sharron or Mary know you will be attending.

Thanks be to God!  
We are HIS!

## LWML Sunday is October 13

Sunday, October 13, we celebrate LWML Sunday with worship featuring some parts of the specially prepared worship materials provided by LWML. The theme this year is "Ready to Serve."

This is the mission of the LWML: to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world. Our focus is on Bible Study and mission service.

Thank You, Lord, for blessing the LWML and keep her faithful to You into the future!

**Serve the Lord  
with Gladness!**

Lutheran women, young and old,  
Well we know His challenge bold:  
Help to take the Gospel light  
To a world in darkest night,  
By example in the home,  
By inviting those who roam,  
By our prayers for sinners lost,  
By our gifts for missions' cost.

Words by Elmer A. Kettner. © through the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

## October is Mite Month

We bring in the coins and folding money we've been saving in our mite containers and dedicate them to the Lord's service during October. You may bring your mites to church and place them on Mary Martinal's office desk or in her mailbox. Please mark these as mites. If you would like a mite container, please talk to Mary or to Sharron Sheridan.

This month as you put money into your mite container, say a prayer for Orphan Grain Train -- Michigan.

God's Word asks in 1 John 3:17, "*If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?*" The self-evident understanding from this divine Word is that maintaining possessions without pity for those in need is incompatible with Christ's love in us and is uncaring of those in need, since we Christians have received a far greater benefit than possessions in the measureless love of God to lavish pity's sake on others.

It is very difficult, if not impossible, for anyone hungry, cold, unclothed, unsafe, or friendless, wherever in the world they might be, to give attention to the Word of God. Therefore, Orphan Grain Train – Michigan, for pity's sake, brings the Name and loving character of Jesus to those in need through distribution of clothing, quilts, medical supplies, and other Christ-inspired material relief.

Orphan Grain Train – Michigan has worked in collaboration with other ministries such as Lutheran Heritage Foundation to deliver theological literature and ecclesiastical supplies along with humanitarian relief to maximize the impact of carrying forth God's Word.

Funding, especially for the transport of relief supplies and humanitarian goods, is essential to fulfilling the compassionate aims of Orphan Grain Train – Michigan. The average cost of shipping internationally a 40-foot (2,660 cubic ft.) high-cube shipping container is \$9,000.00

The Michigan District LWML, meeting in Grand Rapids in June 2024, granted \$18,000.00 to enable Orphan Grain Train – Michigan to facilitate at least two international shipments.

**Thank you for (and keep on)  
bringing in your "Mites!"**

# October Celebrations

## Happy Birthday

Dale Martinal	9
Stephanie Butler	12
Carole Pahl	12
Tony Loudon	13
Ruth Lamley	17
Mike Griffith	20
Jessicca Hofbauer	25

## Baptismal Anniversaries

Emma Wetzel	6
Grace Steinke	16
Marcia Albain	19
Caden Moyer	21

## Wedding Anniversaries

Michael & Andrea Jenkins 26



# In Our Prayers

### We Pray This Month:

For all the nations, for all suffering from illness, hunger, persecution; for all experiencing conflict and economic troubles

For Our Nation –

that God would provide guidance and assistance to all firemen and fire officials

that God would comfort, guide, support all who have lost loved ones, homes and belongings in the recent natural disasters and through violence

For His Church –

that God would strengthen and protect all His people and move us 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 bless and grow our Sunday School, our congregation,

For those who grieve: families of: Bob Pfeiffer, Barbara Ann Kittner

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Kevin Giroux	Mike & Patti Vergiels	Bob & Joann Wachter
Danielle Hofbauer	Ruth Lamley	Margaret Parker
Sherrell Hofbauer	Mike & Patsy Broge	Mike Griffith (eyes)
Les Howard	Dene Minnema	Hans & Arleen Jacobsson
Marcia Albain (eyes/balance)	Tricia Moyer-Fowler	Barb Davis
Stephanie Butler	Ryan Liske	Mary Ellen Moyer
Thomas Groh	Ralph & Wanda Saylor	Rich Klann
Jon & Carol Davis	Ralph Wetzel	Diane Allwardt
Donna Bell (heart)	Zachary Young (epilepsy)	Sharron Nossie
Shannon Zeller (foot)	Keith Richardson	Rev. Daryl Etheridge
Marti Hudelston	Steve & Mike Weisenfelder	Gary Allen
Jon Willet	Kari Gulliksen (osteoporosis)	Jeff Moyer (stroke)
Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)	Barb Hauch (cancer)	Marcy Palmiter (cancer)
Heidi Kennedy (cancer)	Doug Thumm (cancer)	Sherri Falzone (cancer)
Tami McKenney (cancer)	Michael Palmiter (cancer)	Rev. Ron Farah (cancer)
Jerry Pierce (cancer)	Mike Snyder (cancer)	Gordon Zender (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 His many blessings.

Contact the Church Office, 263-4317 or [hopelcms@tc3net.com](mailto:hopelcms@tc3net.com), with new requests and/or updates.

# October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LWML Sunday 6:30pm Elders		1 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr	2 6:30pm Bible Study	3 8am Rum. Sale	4 8am Rum. Sale	5
6 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday a. Pentecost 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class & Confirmation 6:30-8pm Hope Youth	7 6:30pm Ladies Study	8 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr	9 6:30pm Bible Study	10	11	12 9am Irish Hills Zone Rally @ St. Mark, Brooklyn
13 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday a. Pentecost 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class & Confirmation 6:30-8pm Hope Youth	14 6:30pm Ladies Study	15 NO Gentz Sm Gr	16 No Study tonight	17 1pm Games	18	19
Pastor at All Pastors Conference						
20 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday a. Pentecost 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class & Confirmation 6:30-8pm Hope Youth	21 3:30pm Admin Bd 6:30pm Ladies Study	22 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr	23 6:30pm Bible Study Newsletter Deadline	24	25	26 10am-2pm Drug Take-Back Day @ Hickman
27 Reformation Sunday 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class & Confirmation 6:30-8pm Hope Youth	28 6:30pm Ladies Study	29 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr	30 6:30pm Bible Study	31	[C] = Communion	Voters' Meeting - Sunday, November 10

## October 2024 Servant Schedule

<b>Oct. 6</b>	9:00 a.m.	<b>ELDER:</b> Bill Kohn; <b>READERS:</b> Sue Muck, Bill Kohn; <b>USHERS:</b> Tom & Jacob Sande; <b>COMMUNION:</b> Hilda Cortez; <b>ACOLYTE:</b> Carson Moyer; <b>GREETER:</b>
<b>Oct. 13</b>	9:00 a.m.	<b>ELDER:</b> John Butler; <b>READERS:</b> Jennifer Sande, John Butler; <b>USHERS:</b> Jay Butler; <b>COMMUNION:</b> Sande Family; <b>ACOLYTE:</b> Maddix Stevens; <b>GREETER:</b>
<b>Oct. 20</b>	9:00 a.m.	<b>ELDER:</b> Jim Logan; <b>READERS:</b> Carol Herter, Jim Logan; <b>USHERS:</b> James P. Sheridan; <b>COMMUNION:</b> Sue Muck, Sara Hackney; <b>ACOLYTE:</b> Harmonie Roman; <b>GREETER:</b>
<b>Oct. 27</b>	9:00 a.m.	<b>ELDER:</b> Rick Wetzel; <b>READERS:</b> Mike Duncan, Rick Wetzel; <b>USHERS:</b> Tom & Jacob Sande; <b>COMMUNION:</b> Finks; <b>ACOLYTE:</b> Caden Moyer; <b>GREETER:</b>

# To God be the Glory