



5625 W. US Hwy. 223  
Adrian, MI 49221  
(517) 263-4317  
www.hopeadrian.org  
E-mail: hopecms@tc3net.com

## The Messenger

September  
2020

**Pastor**  
The Rev. Paul Herter

**Youth/Family Life**  
Becky Martinal. DCE

**Worship**  
Sundays  
9:00 (masks req.)  
10:30 a.m. (masks opt.)

**Bible Study**  
Sundays  
Suspended for now  
Tuesdays  
Suspended for now  
Wednesdays  
6:30 p.m. (adults)

## God is Constant

God's Best Blessings to All of you Dear One in Christ!

In my September newsletter article of four years ago, I made some remarks that turned some heads and got me in trouble with a few people. I guess I haven't learned, and I hope I'm not going to be getting in trouble with anyone. To me, however, it's more important that I speak the truth and remain consistent with the Scriptures and the Gospel!

As in 2016, and as I have always been, with God's help, tried to be consistent throughout my ministry in Biblical teachings regarding certain cultural issues, so also today we must give a clear message to our society. To me, the major issue of our day since 1973 (and before) is on the Sanctity of Life! Think about how many of the major concerns – both in society and politics – are related at their base with the Life issue! In the Bible, all sin damns. (And ALL SIN is borne to the Cross by our Lord Jesus Christ, paid in full by His Blood for the forgiveness of sins. When He bodily rose from the dead, Jesus opened the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers!) But the Commandment against murder is regarded as particularly heinous by God since it cuts a human being off from the possibility of repentance, faith and salvation! This is so serious an offense that the Bible teaches that even hatred of a fellow human being is tantamount to murder. (Cf. 1 John 3:15)

If anything, since 2016, human life in the womb has been threatened more and more by politicians seeking to curry favor with abortion-rights groups like Planned Parenthood. (Sad to say, most all of these politicians are affiliated with or members of the Democratic Party.) In New York State, for example, the Empire State Building was lit up pink to celebrate laws to further expand abortion "rights." (A celebration of killing babies!) In Virginia, their Governor on a talk show actually put forth acceptance of a practice where *a born baby's* fate is determined by its mother, doctors or even the government! (We used to call this "infanticide.") Even in our own State of Michigan, our Governor showed where her values lie – during the virus threat in March and April – by shutting down business and church gatherings but leaving abortion facilities, as well as marijuana and liquor stores open! How terrible!

(By the way, those 400,000 + signatures of registered voters, where we tried to restrict abortion in Michigan, failed. Sadly, our Governor, Attorney General and Secretary of State were all pleased that it failed. Check their party affiliation.)

Please understand that my criticism is against adopted political policy that is then put into practice. Anyone can read the platform positions of each political part. I realize that there are those of the Republican Party who are pro-abortion on demand or even ambivalent on the Life issue – I wouldn't vote for them either! There is often the accusation that once the babies are born that Pro-Life people don't care anymore, well, not in my experience! We Christians care about our fellow human beings throughout every stage of life ... and so we should! Our loving God cares about all people, particularly children. (Cf. Black Pre-born Lives Matter!)

Finally, let us continue to seek to please God by ordering our lives as citizens of our country and simultaneously as members of the Church of the Living God!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul

## Stewardship Corner

### God's Love is Constant

A pastor visited a member of his congregation who was a farmer. He noticed that the farmer had a weathervane on top of his new barn with the inscription, "God is love." "What do you mean by putting those words on your weathervane?" he asked. "Do you mean that God's love is as changeable as the wind?"

"Oh, no, just the opposite," the farmer replied. "I mean that God's love is the same no matter which way the wind blows."

Very likely the farmer had in mind the verse from Hebrews 13:8 which reads, "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*" This is a good verse for all of us to remember. Maybe we've had some disappointing things happen that can make us doubt God's love for us. Maybe things are not going well at work. Maybe one or more of your children are going through difficult times. Maybe someone we know has died. Life can be very confusing and frightening. Sometimes it's hard to admit to another person that we're concerned that we don't "have it all together." God knows, and His love for us remains constant even though our emotions may run from very high to very low.

As painful as some of these experiences are, we can really learn from them. Best of all, they serve to help us mature in faith. Furthermore, they teach us about other people. If we have these problems, shouldn't we think others

*Jesus Christ is the  
same yesterday  
and today and  
forever.*

may too, even if they don't talk about them? The Apostle Paul knew what it was like to have problems, and he found a purpose in them: "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, Who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God*" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). First, we should praise God for the comfort He gives us. He is the Father of all mercies! Then, Paul says, we should comfort others just as God has comforted us. How can we do this? By listening, by being patient when friends don't act as they should as a result of their emotional pain, and, most of all, by sharing our experience with them and telling them of the comfort God brings. Doing these things is practicing good stewardship of the gifts God has given us. God will help us keep our eyes on Him instead of our circumstances, and He will help us to place our trust in Him.

## Operation Christmas Child Coming Soon!

### The Amazing Journey of a Shoebox Gift Begins with You.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has disrupted everyday life for millions of people around the world. Yet, Samaritan's Purse continues to share the eternal hope of the Gospel and to serve in Jesus' Name.

We want boys and girls around the world to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them during this time of fear and uncertainty. Children need great joy now more than ever. Most of all, they need the hope found only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Will you partner with us to share that glorious hope with boys and girls around the world—many of whom have never heard the Name of Jesus?

We're looking forward to a great Operation Christmas Child season as we prayerfully consider ways to modify our collection and processing in light of COVID-19. We are already monitoring local, state, and national guidelines and making adjustments to help protect the health of those involved in preparing shoebox gifts.

Samaritan's Purse is preparing ways for us to contribute virtually as well as by actually filling a shoebox. Watch for more information!

## Food Pantry Needs

Our community food pantries continue to minister to more and more families and are low on supplies. Please do what you can to support our fellow Christians who are staffing these pantries! Check with Fishes and Loaves or Holy Family St. Mary's Parish or St. Joseph's Parish to find when they accept donations of food or whether they accept donations of money.

Thank you for remembering those less fortunate, and please continue to provide as God has commanded us in Matthew 25:40: "*Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.*" NIV

*As long as the earth endures,  
seedtime and harvest,  
cold and heat, summer and winter,  
day and night will never cease.  
Genesis 8:22 (NIV)*

## Hope Women

Plans are still being made for our next season. We are considering holding a movie night – outdoors – in September. Keep watching and listening for information!

Keep watching and listening also for news on the Irish Hills Fall Zone Rally.

Bring, or mail, in your mites!! The Lord's work continues!

## Dedicated Mites at Work

What a blessed privilege we have – to assist in mission work through the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) by saving our loose change (and currency) in our mite containers. This is one simple way to help spread God's kingdom, something everyone can do!

You can put the contents of your mite box/container into a sturdy zip-loc bag, mark them as mites, and drop them off at the church when Mary is in – or write a check and mail it to church. God bless you as you support the ministries of God's kingdom through the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). If you would like a mite container, please talk to Mary or to Sharron Sheridan.

This month as you fill your mite container, please pray for men from Michigan studying for the pastoral ministry at our Synodical Seminaries.

Romans 10:14-15 says, *How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in. And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

The number of pastoral vacancies continues to increase due to the blessed addition of new congregations, coupled with the retirement of clergy, and escalated by the number of second-career pastors reaching retirement age earlier into their ministry, as well as men simply leaving the ministry. Tuition, books, and housing costs continue to increase, causing financial burdens on both new and returning pastoral students. The men studying to become pastors need extra support and encouragement to continue their studies.

The LWML-Michigan District, meeting virtually in July 2020, granted the sum of \$25,000 to assist men from Michigan with their tuition costs at either of our Synodical Seminaries as they study to become pastors.

# You are the face of LWML

## Adult Choir

Hope's Adult Choir usually reforms and begins practicing in September. However, because of COVID-19, we are revising our schedule.

The hope and prayer is that we will be able to praise God as a choir at Christmastime.

All voices willing to join us singing the praises of our great God and Savior will be welcome whenever our choir rehearsals begin again! Questions? Contact choir director, Dene Minnema, 263-2538.



## CPC Annual Fundraising Banquet Save the Date October 17, 2020 7:00 p.m.

This event is CPC's largest fundraiser and each year is always a little different. You might "imagine" that this year will be different as well--staying true to the many differences and challenges 2020 has brought. We will move forward *virtually* in sharing what God has done over the last year, exceedingly abundantly more than we could have asked or imagined.

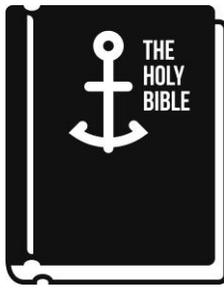
You will be invited to a Facebook LIVE event, with all the information you will need to be an excited participant!

Please pray for this very important event, and~

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

### Check Your Email!

Announcements of events newly scheduled, prayer updates, and news of interest will be sent out from the church office via email. Make sure to check your inbox and please share with those without!



## Why God Put Me Here

I don't know how to say it,  
but somehow it seems to me  
That maybe we stationed  
where God wanted us to be  
That the little place I'm filling  
is the reason for my birth.  
And just to do the work I do  
He put me on this earth.  
If God had wanted otherwise  
I reckon He'd have made  
Me just a little different,  
of a worse or better grade.  
And since God knows and understands  
all things of land and sea,  
I fancy that He placed me here  
just where He wanted me.  
Sometimes I get to thinking,  
as my labors I review,  
That I should like a higher place,  
with greater tasks to do.  
But I come to the conclusion,  
when the envying is stilled,  
That the post to which God sent me  
is the post He wanted filled.  
So I plod along and struggle  
in the hope when day is through  
That I'm really necessary  
to the things God wants to do.  
And there isn't any service  
I can give which I should scorn.  
For it may be just the reason  
God allowed me to be born.

- Author unknown

- ❖ I am the Bible God's wonderful library; I am always and above all – the *truth*.
- ❖ To the weary pilgrim, I am a strong *staff*.
- ❖ To the one who sits in darkness, I am glorious *light*.
- ❖ To those who stumble beneath heavy burdens, I am sweet *rest*.
- ❖ To him who has lost his way, I am a safe *guide*.
- ❖ To those who are sick in sin, I am healing *strength and forgiveness*.
- ❖ *To the discouraged, I am a glad message of hope.*
- ❖ To those who are distressed and tossed about by the storms of life, I am an *anchor*, sure and steadfast.
- ❖ To those who search for salvation, I *reveal the Savior* of the world.
- ❖ I am *God's Word for YOU*.
- ❖ I am your *Bible*!

## Teach Me to Listen, Lord

Teach me to listen, Lord.  
Teach me to catch the voice of heaven  
in earthly things.  
Equip me with antennae  
to pick up and select  
out of the cacophony  
that drums against my ear  
Your voice.  
Amplify in my ear truth – sounds.  
Teach me to hear in silence  
as I pray.  
Teach me to catch Your voice  
in words set down  
by ancient pen.  
Teach me to listen, too,  
with hands and feet,  
translating Your voice  
into my daily walk and way.  
Teach me to listen, Lord.

- Robin E. Van Cleaf

## Heritage

Let us not forget the religious character of our origin. Our fathers were brought here by their high veneration for the Christian religion. They journeyed by its light and labored in its hope. They sought to incorporate its principles with the elements their society, and to diffuse its influence through all their institutions – civil, political and literary.

Let us cherish these sentiments, and extend this influence still more widely, in the full conviction that this is the happiest society, which partakes in the highest degree of the mild and peaceable spirit of Christianity.

- Daniel Webster

# September Celebrations

## Happy Birthday

Allison Wetzel	2
Madyson Fowler	8
Dee Weisenfelder	12
Eleanor Schippers	15
Fred Houck	17
Hailey Hofbauer	20

## Baptismal Anniversaries

Sarah Holmes	1
Ron Gentz	7
Hailey Hofbauer	7
Jessicca Hofbauer	7
John Butler	8
Vivian Knight	11
Cameron Hofbauer	19
Tricia Moyer-Fowler	25
Allison Wetzel	26

## Wedding Anniversaries

Jose & Hilda Cortez	4
Rev. Paul & Carol Herter	4
Ron & Dianne Gentz	7
Michael & Ann Vuiller	14
Norman & Vivian Knight	25

### We Pray This Month:

For the Nations of the world for peace and healing from her troubles

For Our Nation –

that God would provide comfort and support to all who have lost their homes and/or loved ones to storms, floods, fire or violence and keep all our firefighters and police officers safe 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 bless and grow our Sunday School, our congregation,

For Those who grieve: families of: Steve McRobert, Ned Rubel, Carlos Flores, Helen Petee, Evan Keller

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Myrna Sheldon	Ron & Dianne Gentz	Chuck & Ruth Presley
Paul Theung (aneurysms)	Dave & Dee Weisenfelder	Margaret Parker
Dorothy Parker	Tricia Moyer-Fowler	Maynard Howard
Les & Sue Howard	Eleanor Schippers	Esther von Fange (stroke)
Marcia Albain (headaches)	Patti Vergiels (pain)	Brad Housman (pain)
Jim Hill (Parkinson's)	Jim & Diana Gulliksen	Dayna Butler (surgery)
Verna Garsey	Jackie Lamba (Parkinson's)	Mike Weisenfelder
Kristie Smith (eye issues)	Stephen Palmiter (Crohn's)	Arnie Saylor
Marti Hudelston	Jada Korsman	Karl Kelk
Jon Willett (lung transplant)	John Parlier	Micheal Thiel
Skylla Duff & Dustin (burns)	Ernie Henzi (hospice)	Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)
Bill & Jeanie Landry	Larry & Betty Bendes	Alan Garrison
Gloria Putten	Corey Thumm	George Mosier
Casey Muck (concussion)	Doug Thumm (cancer)	Meredith Loudon (cancer)
Rod Pender (cancer)	Mark Case (cancer)	Brenda Kafer (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)
Joanne Sohl (cancer)	Jim Barancin (cancer)	Tim Parros (cancer)
Gregg Woods (cancer)	Jerry Strayer (cancer)	Tom Salbut (cancer)

We give thanks to God for His many blessings.

**I  
n  
O  
u  
r  
P  
r  
a  
y  
e  
r  
s**

# September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>[C] = Communion</b> Masks <b>are required</b> at 9:00am service. Masks are optional at 10:30am service.		1	2	3	4	5
6      14 <sup>th</sup> S. after Pentecost 9:00am Worship [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am Worship [C]	7      Labor Day Office Closed	8	9 6:30pm Bible Study	10 Homeschool group	11	12 Milk Distribution @ St. John's
13     15 <sup>th</sup> S. after Pentecost 9:00am Worship [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am Worship [C]	14	15	16 6:30pm Bible Study Newsletter Deadline	17 Homeschool group	18	19
20     16 <sup>th</sup> S. after Pentecost 9:00am Worship [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am Worship [C]	21 6:30pm Admin Bd	22 6:30pm Elders	23 6:30pm Bible Study	24 Homeschool group	25	26 9:00am Irish Hills Zone Board Meeting @ Redeemer, Jackson
27     17 <sup>th</sup> S. after Pentecost 9:00am Worship [C] (Masks Required) 10:30am Worship [C]	28	29	30	Check for emails from Hope. Activities may be added as we continue to emerge and learn to cope with the "new normal."		

## September 2020 Servant Schedule

**Sept. 6**      10:00 a.m.    **ELDER:** Bill Kohn; **READERS:** Jennifer Sande, Bill Kohn

**Sept. 13**     9:00 a.m.    **ELDER:** Jim Logan;  
 10:30 a.m.    **ELDER:** Jim Logan; **READERS:** Youth, Jim Logan

**Sept. 20**     9:00 a.m.    **ELDER:** Bill Kohn;  
 10:30 a.m.    **ELDER:** Bill Kohn; **READERS:** Judy Theung; Bill Kohn

**Sept. 27**     9:00 a.m.    **ELDER:** Rick Wetzel;  
 10:30 a.m.    **ELDER:** Rick Wetzel; **READERS:** Carol Herter, Rick Wetzel

Rejoice in the Lord always!