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The Messenger

September 2021

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.

In All Things Charity

Dear Loved Ones in Christ Jesus, our LORD and Savior,

September is an important and greatly significant month in our nation's history. It was September 17, 1787, that the Constitution of the United States was created. September 17 is U.S. Citizenship Day! And, this year, we observe the sad twentieth anniversary of the attack on American soil in 2001: "9/11."

After that attack, some of the influential people of the time asked this question: "Why do they hate us?" – referring to America's enemies. Different reasons were put forth but, in my opinion, it came down to one basic characteristic of America: "Liberty" – our freedom. Most of the world's history is a story of tyranny and control of people by government "rulers" rather than our history of government "servants," as President Abraham Lincoln said: "of the people, by the people, and for the people," that is, independence...Liberty and the Rule of Law. Presently, we are facing a similar struggle in our own country among our own people and under our own government! God help us!

The Church has a stake in all this as well, since it is the notions of Christian liberty – expressed in the Bible – which America's Founders used to bring forth the principles by which our nation is established. As I have said before, the first right in the First Amendment is that of Religious Liberty. You do not have religious liberty granted under any other religion than Christianity. To the extent that the Christian Church prospers, the nation prospers and its people are blessed. To the extent that the Church fails or is marginalized, the nation fails and its people suffer.

Our government, with its secular principles, is more closely allied with the Left and Atheists in media, academia, "Big Tech," and Hollywood than ever before. More and more, the pressure on the Church and individual Christians to conform to non-Christian ideas, or face dire consequences, is mounting. As citizens, we must stand up for the basic, natural human rights of all people. As members of the Church of our LORD Jesus, we must rely on "the weapons of the Spirit," namely, God's Word and prayer, to accomplish the LORD's Will and Work.

Perhaps a lesson for us from another terrible time in history would be helpful: "It was during the fiercest dogmatic controversies and the horrors of the Thirty Years' War, that a prophetic voice whispered to future generations that watchword of Christian peacemakers, which was unheeded in a century of intolerance, and forgotten in a century of indifference, but resounds with increased force in a century of revival and re-union:

"IN ESSENTIALS UNITY, IN NON-ESSENTIALS LIBERTY, IN ALL THINGS CHARITY."

- First quoted by 17th century Lutheran (and other) Christians

Continued on page 2

Stewardship Corner

God Calls Us Stewards

In the book of Genesis, we are told that, when God created the world, He brought things into existence out of nothing. *“The earth was without form and void”* (Genesis 1:2). God not only created the world, but He brought form and order to all that He had created. Several times, we read, *“God saw that it was good.”*

The masterpiece of God’s creation was Adam and Eve whom God placed in the Garden of Eden. In Genesis 1:26, we read about an important stewardship role that God had in mind for Adam and Eve. *“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’”* God gave Adam and Eve the privilege of being the stewards of all that He created. The task of being called to be a steward is referenced again in Genesis 2:15 which reads, *“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”* Adam and Eve were placed in the garden to tend it as God’s stewards and managers of creation.

In the same way God called Adam and Eve to be His stewards, He calls us to be stewards of all that He entrusts to us. Whereas God created all things out of nothing and therefore is the owner, we are only stewards of what God has already created. Our responsibility, as stewards, is to manage what we have been given to honor and please God. As stewards, we understand our lives and blessings are gifts from God. We are the recipients of God’s gifts, so we are only the stewards of what God chooses to give to us. We express our gratitude for the honor and opportunity to be His stewards by using our blessings faithfully to help those in need and to advance His kingdom. As God’s stewards, we are called to protect and grow all that He gives to us.

In his book, *The Power of Pure Stewardship*, the sainted Carl W. Berner, Sr., wrote, *“The faithful God and the faithful steward working together—that’s the winning combination. No one can improve on that. If a man is as faithful in his stewardship as God is in His gifts and promises, failure is impossible, success inevitable.”*

May God help each of us answer God’s call to be His steward.

Our responsibility as stewards is to manage what we have been given to us by God to His glory.

Pastor’s Article, cont.

“And we would all embrace a mutual unity in things necessary; in things non-necessary liberty; in all things charity. This I feel, this I desire, this I do indeed hope for, in Him Who is our hope and we are not confounded.”

“We are not divided, all one Body we...One in hope and doctrine, one in charity! Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before!” (*Lutheran Worship*, Hymn 518)

Love to all in Christ,

Pastor Paul

P.S. With a desire to be renewed by the Holy Spirit in faith, hope, and love, we are initiating a New Unified Worship and Simplified Bible Study Schedule for all ages beginning on Sunday, September 12, with Worship at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday School/Bible Class following from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. By utilizing Concordia’s “Enduring Faith” curriculum, every disciple will focus on the same (age-relevant) Bible lesson each Sunday! Please take note of the Scripture passage focus during September noted on page 3 of this newsletter.

Operation Christmas Child Coming Soon!

The Amazing Journey of a Shoebox Gift Begins with You.

For several years now, Hope has supported Operation: Christmas Child project of Samaritan’s Purse by buying school supplies and other needs for boys and girls around the world – all put into a shoebox. To continue to support this project, we need someone to “champion” this project. If you will serve in this way, please contact Judy Theung, Outreach Coordinator.

We have some Operation Christmas Child boxes from previous years that you can take and fill.

We want boys and girls around the world to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them. Children need great joy. Most of all, they need the hope found only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Information on what to include in a shoebox or to fill a shoebox online is available at the Samaritan’s Purse website: www.samaritanpurse.org.

Rummage Sale



The Annual Fall Rummage Sale is BACK! It is being planned to run Thursday, September 30, and Friday, October 1!

SO:

Go through your closets, cupboards, garages, attics, etc.

and decide which items (fall/winter/Thanksgiving/Christmas) you are willing and want to part with.

Bring in items starting Sunday, September 12!

DO NOT bring in clothes and decorations that are out of season (spring, summer, Easter, July 4th), dirty or ready to be used as rags.

DO bring in seasonal clothes and decorations (fall, winter, Halloween, Christmas). Items, tools, for instance, that appeal to men are always welcome.

DO plan on giving Sharron assistance in preparing for, running, and cleaning up after the Sale!

Any questions? Talk to Sharron Sheridan, 403-0065.

URGENT!

We are in need of a replacement treasurer as of October 17. An accounting degree is not necessary, but some knowledge of bookkeeping would be helpful. Knowing how to operate a computer would also be useful.

Vikki Ritzert, our present treasurer, has set up all the necessary information to help you transition to the new position. She has also indicated she would be available for questions before and after taking the job.

So please, prayerfully consider serving our congregation in this capacity even if hesitant. It might be fun, especially if you are a “numbers” person. A computer for this job is provided by the church so you would be able to work from home. Also, if attending board meetings once a month is not always possible, we can zoom you. Think about this please. For more information, contact Vikki Ritzert at 517-260-5557.

Thank you,

Arleen Jacobsson, Stewardship Secretary

Lord, hear our prayer

Enduring Faith

Our Sunday morning Bible Classes, both adult and children, will be using Concordia Publishing House’s Enduring Faith curriculum this fall. Adults and children will be studying the same portions of Scriptures with age-appropriate discussions and activities. We encourage families to talk about these lessons at home.

In September, we will be studying these lessons:

September 12 –

“A Mighty Wonder – Creation”

(Genesis 1:1 – 2:3)

September 19 –

“The Fall and a Promise – Fall into Sin”

(Genesis 3)

September 26 –

“A New Beginning – Noah”

(Genesis 6:11-22; 7:11-24; 8:13-22)

Small Group Study



The small group Bible Study, led by Ron Gentz, began meeting again at 9:30 a.m., on Tuesday, September 7, in the Fellowship Hall at church. The study will be the book of Daniel. Contact Ron

Gentz at 486-4376, for more information.

Sunday Morning Schedule Change!

On **Sunday, September 12**, Hope begins a NEW Sunday Morning schedule:

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

Bible Class & Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

We will worship our God and Savior in a more contemporary manner on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and in a more traditional manner on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Communion will be celebrated at each service. (There will be NO “Coffee Hour”, however, for now.)

Join us as we praise our Lord *together* and celebrate our fellowship and unity in Him.

Hope Women

Plans are still being made for our next season. 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!

Secret Sisters

Fall is around the corner! Have you been remembering your Secret Sister? Fall is a good time to "catch up." Pray for her (and her family) daily. Drop her a note or send a card to let her know that you are supporting her in her Christian walk. This is one way we can show the world that we Christians love one another.



"To the Congregation of Hope Lutheran Church

I want to thank you for your recognition of my service. It was greatly appreciated but not necessary. I feel I have done this to honor my Father in Heaven and to the honor of my father here on earth, who so enjoyed the church. Thank you for your gifts. You have touched my heart and I will always be grateful.

David (Hill)"

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

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 Trinity HOPE and the people of Haiti.

Christ instructed us in Matthew 28:19 to, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations," and God will tell His sheep who have fed the hungry, "For I was hungry and you gave me food... Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" (Matthew 25:35-40)

Trinity HOPE has demonstrated that providing a noon meal for the hungry children in our Lutheran schools in Haiti is a powerful witness used by the Holy Spirit to discredit the voodoo teaching that God is unapproachable and non-responsive to Haitians. These children are coming to faith in response to the Word and its witness faster than any other population segment, and often later are instruments in bringing their whole families to the knowledge of Christ.

Trinity Hope reaches the children in our Lutheran schools with the Word of the Lord by filling their empty tummies with a hot lunch which enables them to be better nourished, increases their attention span, and enhances their ability to learn and see the food as a powerful witness of Christ's love, provided at a cost of \$0.25 a meal.

The LWML-Michigan District, meeting virtually in July 2020, granted the sum of \$15,000 to enable a partnership with Trinity HOPE, the local Lutheran churches in Haiti, and the people of Haiti to feed physically and feed spiritually the children each day.

You are the face of LWML

September Celebrations

Happy Birthday

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Allison Wetzel | 2 |
| Madysen Fowler | 8 |
| Dee Weisenfelder | 12 |
| Fred Houck | 17 |
| Hailey Hofbauer | 20 |

*God's blessings to you,
each and every one!*

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 |
| Michael & Patsy Broge | 6 |
| Norman & Vivian Knight | 25 |

Congratulations ...

...to Joe & Hilda Cortez, and,
...to Norm & Vivian Knight,
who celebrate their 50th wedding
anniversaries this month!!!

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: family of: Dorothy Parker

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Myrna Sheldon

Patti Vergiels

Jason & Tricia Moyer-Fowler

Arleen Jacobsson (knee)

Stephanie Butler

Betty Prielipp

Annette Miller

Rev. Daryl Etheridge

Tim Allwardt (crushed foot)

Jon Willett

Bob Beagle

Bill & Jeanie Landry

Ralph & Wanda Saylor

Melissa Morton (stroke)

Sue Johnson (cancer)

Allison Oliver (cancer)

Chuck Marine (cancer)

L. J. Jones (cancer)

Shannon (cancer)

Margaret Parker

Dave & Dee Weisenfelder

Marcia Albain (headaches)

Bob Wachter

Bill Davis (back)

Mary Jane Hull

Brad Housman (pain)

Richard Sande

Jada Korsman

John Parlier

Jeff Moyer (stroke)

Don Smith, Jr.

Casey Muck (concussion)

Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)

Denver Parker (cancer)

Sheri Falzone (cancer)

Doug Thumm (cancer)

Dale Chase (cancer)

David Baumgartner (cancer)

Maynard Howard

Chuck & Ruth Presley

Les Howard

Carole Pahl

Jim Hill

Dan Baumgartner

Ed Carr

Marti Hudelston

Kristie Smith (eye issues)

Mike Weisenfelder

Micheal Thiel

Gloria Putten

Norma Fidler

Lisa Cable (cancer)

Ryan Bachman

Christina Zeller (cancer)

Gregg Woods (cancer)

Andrew Frank (cancer)

Kelsey (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.

September 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| [C] = Communion | | | 1 6:30pm Bible Study | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 15 th S. after Pentecost 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Worship [C] | 6 Labor Day Office Closed | 7 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr | 8 6:30pm Bible Study | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 16 th S. after Pentecost 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 3:30pm Confirmation Orientation | 13 6:30pm Ladies Study | 14 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr 6:30pm Admin Bd | 15 6:30pm Bible Study | 16 6:30pm Elders | 17 6:30pm Wedding Rehearsal | 18 3:00pm Otero/Spaulding Wedding |
| 19 17 th S. after Pentecost 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class | 20 6:30pm Ladies Study @ Theungs | 21 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr | 22 6:30pm Bible Study Newsletter Deadline | 23 | 24 | 25 9:30am Irish Hills Zone Board Meeting @ St. Paul, Hillsdale |
| Best Practices Conference in Frankenmuth | | Help needed to prepare for our Rummage Sale all this week | | | | |
| 26 18 th S. after Pentecost 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 3:30pm Confirmation | 27 6:30pm Ladies Study @ Theungs | 28 9:30am Gentz Sm Gr | 29 6:30pm Bible Study | 30 8am Rummage Sale | | |
| Help needed to prepare for Rummage Sale | | | | | | |

September 2021 Servant Schedule

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---|
| Sept. 5 | 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. | ELDER: Ron Gentz ELDER: John Butler; READERS: Youth, John Butler |
| Sept. 12 | 9:00 a.m. | ELDER: Rick Wetzel; READERS: Jennifer Sande, Rick Wetzel |
| Sept. 19 | 9:00 a.m. | ELDER: Jim Logan; READERS: Judy Theung; Jim Logan |
| Sept. 26 | 9:00 a.m. | ELDER: Bill Kohn; READERS: Carol Herter, Bill Kohn |

Rejoice in the Lord always!