



**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
reaching out with the love of Christ

5625 W. US Hwy. 223  
Mail to: P. O. Box 232  
Adrian, MI 49221  
(517) 263-4317  
www.hopeadrian.org  
E-mail: hopecms@tc3net.com

## The Messenger

July  
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.  
Wednesdays - 6:30 p.m.

## Share the TRUTH of Jesus

Dear Fellow Citizens of God's Kingdom and of the United States,

Permit me to share a parable:

“A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. ‘What food might this contain?’ the mouse wondered – he was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap. Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning. ‘There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!’

“The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, ‘Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it.’

“The mouse turned to the pig and told him, ‘There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!’ The pig sympathized, but said, ‘I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers.’

“The mouse turned to the cow and said, ‘There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!’ The cow said, ‘Wow, Mr. Mouse. I’m sorry for you, but it’s no skin off my nose.’ So the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer’s mousetrap alone.

“That very night a sound was heard throughout the house – like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer’s wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer’s wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital, and she returned home with a fever. Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup’s main ingredient.

“But his wife’s sickness continued, so friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer’s wife did not get well; she died. So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them. The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness.

“There is a mousetrap in the house and although none of us may struggle with this issue, sooner or later we will be faced with the consequences of this problem. It’s time for the house of God to pray and repent and turn to God for His divine protection instead of turning a blind eye. It’s time for us as believers to take responsibility for the healing that needs to take place just as Jesus did as He walked the earth. We are His hands, His feet, His mouth!”

The Church and the nation are in a time of great peril! The welfare of Church and Country are inexorably intertwined. Let us, in word and deed, stand up for Jesus and stand against those who seek to tear down America!

Yours for God and Country,

Pastor Paul

“If My people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

## Stewardship Corner

### Who Gives the Most?

I would like to pose three scenarios: The first one is this: In today's offering, you place a check for \$50.00. Second: a 9<sup>th</sup> grader sitting close to you tosses in a dollar. Third: the person right in front of you puts in a check for \$300.00. The question is this: Who gave the most?

Now let us go back in time and observe a Pharisee who walks through the inner court of the temple and tosses into the temple treasury a bag of gold. Then shift your focus to a widow who slips in almost unnoticed and places two small copper coins into the same temple treasury. Who gave the most?

The answer is found in Jesus' Words: "*I tell you the truth, He said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on'*" (Luke 21:4).

You see, God does not measure our gifts by the size of the gifts, but according to the condition of our hearts. God knows when giving is given out of faith, love, and gratitude for His countless blessings that He gives to us. Not only does He know the priorities of our hearts, but He also knows the giving capabilities that we have. When we give our offerings, He knows what we are keeping for ourselves, and He knows if we are giving sacrificially of what we have. Only as our relationship with Jesus grows will we be able to give greater proportions of what we receive.

Proportionate giving is fair to the rich and the poor. A person who earns \$10,000 and gives \$1,000 is giving the same proportion as a person who earns \$100,000 and gives \$10,000.

Going back to our original scenarios, wouldn't we agree that the person who gave \$300.00 gave the most? Certainly \$300 is greater than the dollar given by the 9<sup>th</sup> grader. However, from God's perspective, the 9<sup>th</sup> grader with the one dollar may have given a more meaningful gift than the person who gave \$300. If the dollar is given from a loving and grateful heart and if it represents a generous proportion of the youngster's income, the gift will please God. A gift of \$300 could sadden the Lord if it is given without faith and if it represents only a token amount of one's income. Jesus said, "*From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked*" (Luke 12:48).

May God grant us the same faith as He did the widow so we, too, can give proportionately, generously, and perhaps even sacrificially.

## Christian Citizenship

*"Ye are the salt of the earth."* Matthew 5:13

Today [July 4] the citizens of the United States are celebrating its birthday. What should be our distinctive role in this celebration? As grateful children of our heavenly Father we will, of course, want to thank Him for the uncounted blessings He has showered on our land. Truly, He has blessed us beyond measure.

But we will want to do more than merely give thanks. Our Lord, who gave His life for us, has told us that we are to be "the salt of the earth." That applies not only to our private lives as individual Christians but also to our civic lives as Christian citizens. As salt, we are to help preserve the health of our nation; we are to help prevent the spread of corruption.

Many sincere believers feel uncomfortable when it comes to taking part in governmental affairs. This is due, in many cases, to a lifelong misconception of the idea of "separation of Church and state." The Christian is not only a practicing member of his church, he is (or should be) a practicing member of his community, his city, his state, and his nation. Having rendered to God the things that are God's, he must also discharge his rightful obligations to the community in which he lives.

How desperately our nation needs the salt of Christian witness and action! Dishonesty, greed, profanity, divorce, and sins of sexual impurity are all about us. In concert with other God-fearing citizens we are to do all within our power to stay the spread of moral decay which threatens our land. Salt that is not applied is worthless. We are to pray, to speak, to work for the welfare of the land we love. Are we doing that?

*Lord, while for all mankind we pray,  
Of every clime and coast,  
Oh, hear us for our native land,  
The land we love the most. Amen.*

From Daily Walk with God: Meditations for Every Day written by Herman W. Gockel. © 1982 Concordia Publishing House.

## 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

## **Ideas have Consequences: Why Bad Ideas can Bring Real Devastation** by Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

A two-kingdom perspective about how God is at work in the world brings a certain sanctified “common sense” to many of the issues we struggle with today. If one studies history, or even gets involved in trying to make this world a better place, one learns very fast that things are broken. (Den that reality to everyone’s peril.) Even the good things that we seem to accomplish bring consequences of which we weren’t aware. (That’s one reason that cultural iconic commentator Thomas Sowell warns that in politics, there are NO solutions, just tradeoffs.) A two-kingdom perspective on how to preserve the world even as God saves it, realizes that human beings are sinful and bent towards evil by nature. All our efforts that we offer to overcome our failings and make things right tend to get skewed along the way. Therefore, “the quest for perfection” is often the enemy of a better (not perfect) solution.” And, there will be times we all face the reality that there is no “good solution” to an issue, but there is the lessor of two evil ones, that will require action and forgiveness, even with the best of intentions.

For that reason, we must be aware of the foolishness that seems to be invading our college campuses. In our history, Americans have always suffered a propensity to pietism, the notion that WE could create a perfect society. It stems from our puritan roots. But, today, secularism, wealth, and technology especially cause us to overestimate our ability to do what’s right, while underestimating the damage our propensity to evil brings in society too. Sadly, unmoored from any moral restraint today, some of the most horrific damage done in society is ironically done when people think that they are passionately doing the “right thing.”

Marxist thought is built on the premise that human beings aren’t sinful or evil by nature, it is the structures of our world that are evil. If those evil structures are removed (even if by violence), and pure, just, and egalitarian structures are put in their place, “good people” WILL be good to one another the way they were meant to be. Intersectionality is one of those ways of masking the notion of structural, not personal change, as if that will solve our problems.

So what’s the point? Utopian intentions tend to bring tyrannical, despotic results. Say what you will about the violence caused by religion in history. It’s nothing compared to the violence and murder perpetuated by the likes of Hitler, Stalin, Mao, and Mussolini, or Hamas on Oct. 7, all seeking the perfect

(continued next column)

## **Bad Ideas, cont.**

structure for the perfect society. With a common sense view of the heart of people (including ourselves), with a knowledge of our propensity to evil in amidst the best of circumstance, public service is a “tradeoffs endeavor seeking the most good,” with a human knowledge that even our best efforts may be a lessor of two evils, needing action and forgiveness both. With that in mind we can strive to think as the Bible teaches “to think about others more highly than ourselves” and seek to serve others with that wisdom and strength.

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz is the executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty.

Emailed from LCRLFreedom account, June 21, 2024

## **Please, God, Give Us Men**

Give us men with eyes to see –  
Visions as they ought to be;  
Men who champion the right,  
Men with courage wrong to smite;  
Men with boldness to begin,  
Men who dare to fight and win;  
Men who will not stoop to wrong,  
Or to please the lauding throng;  
Men who’d perish with the just  
Ere they’d violate their trust,  
Who the hosts of sin defy,  
Holding Christ’s own banner high!

Selected

## **Key to Freedom**

Society cannot exist unless a controlling power upon will and appetite be placed somewhere, and the less of it there is within, the more there must be without. It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things, that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters.

Edmund Burke

### **Special Sunday Schedule**

**July 28, 2024**

**9:00 a.m. - Bible Classes for All Ages**

**10:30 a.m. - United Worship with  
Communion**

## July is Mite Month

What a blessed privilege we have – to assist in mission work 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! During July we bring in our mites and dedicated them to the Lord’s service.

If your container is full, you can put the contents 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.

*Serve the Lord with Gladness!*

## Dedicated Mites at Work

We praise the Lord of the Church Who has blessed the LWML-Michigan District. The Mission Grant Goal for 2022-2024 has been reached! God bless you as you support the ministries of God’s kingdom through the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML).

This month as you put money into your mite container, say a prayer for National Grant “Mental Health Training and Outreach,” from LCMS Life Ministry.

Millions of people in the United States and around the world are suffering with mental illnesses and disorders. There is a tremendous need and opportunity

## Dedicated Mites, cont.

for Lutheran outreach to both the people struggling with mental issues and their family members, so they may receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ. However, pastors, church workers, and lay leaders are challenged in dealing with these problems because they do not have enough training to provide effective and appropriate care.

Public health researchers have conducted studies that indicate people with mental illnesses or disorders are more likely to approach a pastor or professional church worker than a medical doctor or counselor. A mental illness or mental disorder has a downward spiral effect in families that may include behavioral malfunctions, addictions, marital problems leading to divorce, loss of job, incarceration, and suicide. Training and outreach for mental illnesses and disorders are effective in assisting more people to get the help that they need.

The LCMS Task Force for Mental Illness, Health, and Wellness collaborating with expert LCMS contributors, with the help of grant funds, will develop materials, resources, and training programs. LCMS Life Ministry will coordinate the production of materials and rollout the training.

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, meeting in convention in June 2023, granted the sum of \$96,500.00 to enable the LCMS Task Force for Mental Illness, Health, and Wellness to develop these materials, resources, and training programs.

**You are the heart of LWML**

## Pray Without Ceasing

Almighty God, You have give us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Make us who came from many nations with many different languages a united people. Defend our liberties, and give those whom we have entrusted with the authority of government the spirit of wisdom that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

From Petitions, Intercessions, and Thanksgivings, pages 126-127;  
*Lutheran Worship*, © 1982 by Concordia Publishing House



# July Celebrations

## Happy Birthday

Kay Logan	3
Lowell Oberhaus	3
Mary Jane Hull	5
Dalton Sancho	5
Bill Wrase	7
Janice Bilkey	9
Tom Sande	9
James Logan	12
Patti Vergiels	20
Otto Bilkey	21
Rachel Teske	25
Gerald Johnson	30
Weston James	30

## Baptismal Anniversaries

Justin Herter	4
Jacob Sande	6
Madeline Sande	6
Samantha Sande	6
Tom Sande	6
Katherine Fowler	14
Vikki Ritzert	15
Maddix Stevens	15
Cambria Stevens	19
Lowell Oberhaus	20
Bill Wrase	27
Harmonie Wetzal Roman	30

## Wedding Anniversaries

Jonathan & Heidi Henzi	3
Otto & Janice Bilkey	6
Lowell & Linda Oberhaus	8
Chuck & Ruth Presley	8
Mike & Patti Vergiels	21
Ron & Sharon Shulters	26

*Blessed is the nation  
whose God is the LORD.  
Psalm 33:12*

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### 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 suffered loss

that God would guide our local officials & school districts, in the decisions to be made

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 and raise godly leaders to assist us

that God would bless and grow our Sunday School, our congregation, our outreach efforts,

our Youth

For those who grieve: family of Barbara Parker, sister-in-law of Jane Stevens, Margaret Parker

For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

Judy Kuntz (hip)	Sharon Shulters (ankle)	Danielle Hofbauer
Ruth Lamley (arm)	Margaret Parker	Sherrell Hofbauer
Mike & Patti Vergiels	Bob & Joann Wachter	Marcia Albain (headaches)
Dene Minnema	Judy Theung (eyes)	Mike Griffith (eyes)
Hans & Arleen Jacobsson	Les Howard	Mike & Patsy Broge
Tricia Moyer-Fowler	Kevin Lafferty (lime disease)	Ryan Liske
Stephanie Butler	Mary Ellen Moyer	Thomas Groh
Ralph & Wanda Saylor	Ken Wrase	Stephanie Butler
Ralph Wetzal	Diane Allwardt	Donna Bell (heart)
Shannon Zeller (foot)	Keith Richardson	Rev. Daryl Etheridge
Marti Hudelston	Steve & Mike Weisenfelder	Rev. Joe Adams
Jon Willet	Kari Gulliksen (osteoporosis)	Jeff Moyer (stroke)
Jamie Murphy (cirrhosis)	Heidi Kennedy (cancer)	Doug Thumm (cancer)
Sherri Falzone (cancer)	Tami McKenney (cancer)	Michael Palmiter (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.

# July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 NO Class	3 NO Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Youth	4 Office Closed	5	6
7 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost <b>9:00am Worship [C]</b> <b>10:30am Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Class</b>	8 <b>6:30pm Ladies Bible Study</b>	9 <b>9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.</b>	10 <b>6:30pm Bible Study</b> 6:30pm Youth	11 6pm Leadership Mtg.	12	13 8am Zook baby shower here
14 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost <b>9:00am Worship [C]</b> <b>10:30am Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Class</b> <b>Road Rally</b>	15 <b>6:30pm Ladies Study</b>	16 <b>9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.</b>	17 <b>6:30pm Bible Study</b> 6:30pm Youth	18	19	20
21 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost <b>9:00am Worship [C]</b> <b>10:30am Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Class</b>	22 No Ladies Study	23 <b>9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.</b>	24 <b>6:30pm Bible Study</b> 6:30pm Youth??	25 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	26	27
Becky at National Youth Workers Convention, July 20-24, New Orleans						
28 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost <b>9:00am Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Class</b> <b>10:30am Worship [C]</b>	29 6:30pm Elders <b>6:30pm Ladies Study</b>	30 <b>9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.</b>	31 6:30pm Youth		[C] = Communion	

## July 2024 Servant Schedule

**July 7**      9:00 a.m.    **ELDER:** Ron Gentz; **READERS:** Sue Muck, Ron Gentz; **USHERS:** Tom & Jacob Sande; **COMMUNION:** Hilda Cortez; **ACOLYTE:** ; **GREETER:**

**July 14**      9:00 a.m.    **ELDER:** John Butler; **READERS:** Jennifer Sande, John Butler; **USHERS:** Jay Butler; **COMMUNION:** Sandes; **ACOLYTE:** ; **GREETER:**

**July 21**      9:00 a.m.    **ELDER:** Bill Kohn; **READERS:** Carol Herter, Bill Kohn; **USHERS:** James P. Sheridan; **COMMUNION:** Sue Muck, Sara Hackney; **ACOLYTE:** ; **GREETER:**

**July 28**      10:30 a.m.    **ELDER:** Jim Logan; **READERS:** Mike Duncan, Jim Logan; **USHERS:** Tom & Jacob Sande; **COMMUNION:** Finks; **ACOLYTE:** ; **GREETER:**

If you are willing and able to serve as an usher, a reader, or for communion set-up/clean-up, please contact James Sheridan, 517-260-1452. Thank you!

