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## The Messenger

May  
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.

## LORD, Save Us from S.I.N.

Dear Ones in Christ,

The following is another one of those messages that, “I wish I’d said that!”

“Are Christians an endangered species? This is really not the most pleasant question to consider. But at some time or another I would imagine we have all thought about it.

“Faced with an uncomfortable question, we find comfort and assurance in God’s Word. Speaking of Jesus, in John 1:5 (GNB) it says, ‘His life is the light that shines through the darkness – and the darkness can never extinguish it.’ Never, it says. The power of God’s light can never be extinguished. The good news about Jesus will always be good news. Sin will have its triumphs, but it never will completely prevail.

“Most of the danger of Christianity does not come from the outside but from within. I would like to consider with you three of the dangers from within referring to them as Christianity’s sin from within.

“There is the endangering problem of self-centeredness or the S of sin from within. Often, we get so caught up with our own church or our own denomination that our world view of Christianity doesn’t go much beyond our congregation’s front door. In our quest to preserve our peculiar understanding of Scripture, we often fail to bask in the good news of a Christ who stands at the center of Scripture. The New Testament abounds with encouragement for us to one with each other – to rejoice in that which unites us in the Body of Christ rather than to dwell upon our theological idiosyncrasies. It is incompatible with Christianity for us to separate ourselves from other Christians in order to do just our own thing. We are going to spend our eternity with all these people. The time to get acquainted and work together is now.

“Another aspect of the problem is inhibited love. Inhibited love is the I of the sin from within. There is no virtue in loving someone who is lovable. Anyone can do that – even non-believers. There is no virtue in loving someone with whom we agree, that is almost like loving oneself.

“Jesus said, ‘If you love only those who love you, what good is that? Even scoundrels do that much.’ But there is virtue in uninhibited, unconditional love. We are called by Jesus to embrace with forgiving love a brother or sister who has disappointed or even offended us. Forgiveness flows in a church when the Spirit of God resides in its members.

“Love that flows freely is the love that Jesus spoke about when he said, ‘Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you. In that way you will be acting as true sons of your Father in heaven.’

“The final sin from within, represented by the N in sin, is nonchalance. Too many of us take our Christianity too casually – with nonchalance. Saint Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, encourages us to put on God’s armor so that we will be able to stand safe against all the strategies and tricks of Satan. We are encouraged to use every piece of God’s armor available to us.

“Self-centeredness, inhibited love, and nonchalance – three sins from within that endanger Christianity. And so, we return to our question, ‘Are Christians an endangered species?’ Some are and some are not. Although we have the promise of God that the light will never go completely out, our task together with the total church is to make sure we shine brightly. We continue to do battle with the forces of evil from both without and from within. To plan to do less is to risk joining the list of endangered species.”

Yours in Christ, Pastor Paul

## Stewardship Corner

### Guided by the Tithe

God has demonstrated His love for us by creating and redeeming us. A meaningful way we express our gratitude to God is through our faithful giving. By God's grace, we can make giving important, and, when we do, we give Him the glory and honor that He deserves. Faith enables us to give freely and generously. Our giving can have no greater foundation than the Gospel of forgiveness and God's promises.

In His Word, God gives us giving principles. We are called to give cheerfully, regularly, sacrificially, and proportionately of our firstfruits. Even with all these giving principles, one question that all of us have likely asked is, "How much should I give?" In the Old Testament, God answered that question. God's people were commanded to tithe, which meant they were to give one-tenth of their crops, livestock, and gold and silver. The tithe does not answer the question, "Why give?" However, it does help to answer the question, "How much should I give?"

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 16:2, "*On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper...*" According to the income that we receive, we are to give proportionately. The tithe acts as a Biblical guide to calculate the dollar amount to give. Because Abraham, Jacob, and Moses tithed even before the law was given, could the tithe be a benchmark for us to consider as well?

In the New Testament, Jesus affirms the tithe when He told the Pharisees to continue tithing but not to neglect "*the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness*" (Matthew 23:23). It is interesting that, other than the tithe, the only giving referenced in the New Testament exceeded the tithe. Jesus asked His disciples to follow Him and leave everything they owned behind. He directed the Rich Young Ruler to give all His money away. Jesus commended the widow when she gave her last two mites. When He changed Zacchaeus' heart, Zacchaeus gave half of his wealth to the poor. Jesus said, "*Freely you have received, freely give*" (Matthew 10:8 NIV), and, in Acts 20:35, He said, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*"

When we examine what we give, remember that God wants our hearts more than our gifts. May God grant us hearts of faith that give freely and generously.

We give You but Your own  
In any gifts we bring;  
All that we have is Yours alone,  
A trust from You, our King.

## Disclosure of Contributions in the Name of Hope Lutheran

In response of Pastor's suggestion to begin using our Benevolence Funds to help Charities in and around Hope Lutheran, the Board has made and carried a motion to fund this organization:

April 2024 - \$100 from Hope's Memorial Fund was sent to Lutheran Bible Translators. \$50 was designated to support the ministry of the Tassaros. \$50 was designated to support the ministry of the Kaisers.

*"Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear [reverent awe]."*

*Jude 22-23a*

## Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 2. Please make an extra effort to make time to pray for our church, our community, our nation, our world that day. Our Heavenly Father invites us to talk with Him and loves to answer our prayers. *Also, take note of the Retreat and Prayer Service being held on Saturday, May 18, at Redeemer, Jackson. See article on page 4.*

We thank:

- 1) Lowell and Linda Oberhaus, for weeding and beautifying the entry flower mound;
- 2) All who brought things to the Rummage Sale;
- 3) All who worked to set up, clean up, and at the Sale;

HOW CAN WE  
*Thank*  
=God=  
ENOUGH FOR YOU?  
- 1 Thessalonians 3:9, NIV -

*Happy Mother's Day  
May 12*



## Ascension Worship Thursday, May 9

Ascension Day 2024 is  
Thursday, May 9.

Ascension Day is forty days after Jesus rose from the dead and celebrates His glorious return to the throne of heaven. He reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit. One day, soon, He will return in the same way He left. When He returns, He will raise everyone from death and take those of us who believe in Him home to heaven with Him! That will be a fantastic day and a fantastic celebration – going on forever!

This is why we celebrate Ascension Day every year.

This year we, the redeemed people of God, will gather **at 6:30 p.m. on Ascension Thursday, May 9**, to give Jesus thanks and praise for all He has done and continues to do for us. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper.

See you Thursday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m.!

## Enduring Faith

Our Sunday morning Bible Classes, both adult and elementary children, are using Concordia Publishing House's Enduring Faith curriculum, studying the same lessons with age-appropriate discussions and activities. We encourage families to talk about these lessons at home.

In May, Jim Logan and Ron Gentz will lead the adults as we study these lessons:

May 5 – *"The Thankful One"*

(Luke 17:11-19)

May 12 – *"The Kingdom of Children"*

(Luke 18:15-17)

May 19 – *"The Passion Prediction"*

(John 12:1-8)

### Special Sunday Schedule

**May 26, 2024**

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

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



## VBS

Mark your calendars for August 12-15, and plan to help at Vacation Bible School 2024! We will be working with and going to St. John's to hold the activities. Watch and listen for more details and how you can participate.

## Prayer Vigil

We at Hope are holding a Prayer Vigil from 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, until 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9. We will be dividing the time in 30-minute slots, starting on the hour. There will be a sign-up area in the lobby or you can call the Church Office to let us know when you will be praying.

Join us as we pray for Hope and for a vision for how God wants us to minister to the community and to one another. You may pray at home. You may pray at church Thursday afternoon from Noon – 5 p.m. if you wish.



Congratulations to the following for successfully completing their studies and earning

a High School diploma:

Jacob Sande from Homeschool Group

Grace Steinke from Lenawee Christian School

This is a Milestone for Jacob and for Grace. Please keep them in your personal prayers.

## Jacob's Graduation & Open House

**Graduation** at 1 Mosaic, 1002 W. Maumee, Adrian  
Saturday, June 8, at 2:00 p.m.

**Open House** at Hope Lutheran Church  
Saturday, August 17, from 2pm – 6pm

Our beloved church family is invited to come to his graduation and to his open house. We look forward to celebrating with you!

## Baby Bottle Drive

May 12-June 16, 2024

As we seek to change hearts and lives by providing Christian care, TOGETHER we will continue to elevate God's plan for the sacredness of life, sexuality, and the family in our community.



In honor of Mother's and Father's Day, we are humbly asking for your help in supporting the moms, dads, and children who needs us most, with a tax deductible gift to CPC of Lenawee. All of our services are offered free of charge to our clients. To see the many services we offer visit our website at: <http://cpclenawee.com/>.

### Ways to Give:

Pick up a baby bottle at church, fill with money or a check payable to CPC, and return before June 16.

OR:

1. Online at [friendsofcpclenawee.com](http://friendsofcpclenawee.com). Click on the DONATE button.
2. Mail a check or money order designated for CPC Virtual Baby Bottle Drive, payable to CPC, 308 N. Broad St., Adrian, MI 49221.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers and Clients, thank you so much for whatever you might do to help support CPC by keeping the Campaign alive and growing from Mother's Day through Father's Day.

Together for LIFE,  
Roxanne Meeks, Executive Director

## Secret Sisters

Are you remembering your Secret Sister? Pray for your Sister daily and remember her regularly with a note. This pleases our Lord and strengthens our relationship with Him and with our fellow believers.

## Retreat and Prayer Service

Ladies, we are invited to a Retreat and Prayer Service to be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 3637 Spring Arbor Road, Jackson, Michigan, on Saturday, May 18, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. We will carpool from our parking lot at 8:45 a.m. Let Sharron Sheridan or Kathy Brevoort know that you plan to attend.

**Take it to the Lord in Prayer**

## Mother/Daughter Event

Our Mother/Daughter Event for this year will be held at Hope on Saturday, May 11, the day before Mother's Day. The time is 11:00 a.m. Tickets are on sale NOW: \$8 for adults; \$4 for ages 5-12.

Ladies of all ages are invited. We will enjoy a simple meal and some laughs and some singing. The theme is "Shine Like Stars". So be ready to "walk the red carpet" (think Oscar night when the stars dress up) and to pose for some fantastic pictures!

Didn't get tickets? Call the Church Office, 517-263-4317, and let us know you are coming and how many you are bringing no later than Wednesday, May 8.

## Mighty Mites at Work

We praise and thank our mighty God for His love and His grace so we can reach the National Mite Goal for 2023-2025!

This month as you put money into your mite container, say a prayer for National Mission Grant for Set Apart to Serve.

In the last 14 years, the LCMS has experienced a 59% decrease in their pre-seminary Concordia University enrollment along with a dramatic decrease in enrollment of other Christian education programs. The seminaries have experienced a combined decrease of 55% of those enrolled in the Master of Divinity degree.

Set Apart to Serve seeks to encourage and form new pastors and church workers to teach the saving faith to God's people, passing on the Christian faith from one generation to the next until our Savior's return.

The home, congregation, and Lutheran schools are the foundation of the church worker. Encouragement and mentoring from pastors, parents, Lutheran school teachers, and other church workers will help guide children to be Lutheran Christians who have the potential to serve as church workers.

This LWML mission grant of \$100,000 will assist in the funding of expenses associated with a broad, rigorously planned, and well-constructed, multi-year sustained effort across the LCMS, to affect a major positive, cultural change in the manner in which church worker vocations are perceived. Prospective students — from the earliest years of their life in the family household — are encouraged and inspired to consider and appropriately prepare to serve the Church in lifelong professions that advance the Gospel and deliver God's mercy.

**Thanks be to God! We are HIS!**



# May Celebrations

## Happy Birthday

Vikki Ritzert	2
Jonathan Henzi	14
Darlene Fink	17
Warren Reichert	17
Norman Knight	18
Cynthia Reichert	18
Ron Gentz	20
Carol Herter	20
Kathy Brevoort	24
Kevin Giroux	27
Margaret Parker	27
Brendan Holmes	28
Nicklas Holmes	28

## Birthdays, cont.

Presley Holmes	28
Haley Wetzel	30
Bill Posten	31

## Wedding Anniversaries

Paul & Judy Theung	4
Paul & Becky Martinal	5
Tom & Jennifer Sande	20
Jim & Kay Logan	25
Warren & Cynthia Reichert	25

## Baptismal Anniversaries

Hilda Cortez	3
Mary Martinal	4
Phyllis Johnson	6
DeWight Moyer	6
Bill Posten	6
Otto Bilkey	7
Noah Steinke	11
Philip Starr	12
Elaine Stevenson	13
Judy Parros	18
Paul Theung	22
Jan Wuebben	23
Janice Powers	28
Brendan, Nicklas, Presley Holmes	28



### We Pray This Month:

- For the Nations of the world for peace and the end of war, & spread of the Gospel
- For Our Nation – that God would guide and protect all government leaders in all our states and our military
- For His Church – that God would move us to rejoice always in the victory Jesus won over evil & has given us by grace through faith in Him & share His message of reconciliation with those who do not know Him
- that God would guide the Board of Regents for Concordia, Ann Arbor & Wisconsin
- For Hope – that God would bless our 2024 Administrative Board
- that God would bless and grow our Sunday School, our congregation, Youth Ministry
- For those who grieve: families of: Kent Brown, Jim McKenney
- For those who struggle with illness or injuries –

**HOPE**  
**prayers**

Jim Gulliksen (surgery)	Tricia Moyer-Fowler	Danielle Hofbauer
Ruth Lamley (arm)	Margaret Parker	Sherrell Hofbauer
Mike & Patti Vergiels	Bob & Joann Wachter	Marcia Albain (headaches)
Hans & Arleen Jacobsson	Les Howard	Mike Griffith (eyes)
Marnella Lafferty (knee)	Hailey Hofbauer (job loss)	Mike & Patsy Broge
Ryan Liske	Stephanie Butler	Mary Ellen Moyer
Thomas Groh	Ralph & Wanda Saylor	Ken Wrase
Ralph Wetzel	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 our many blessings.

# May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30pm Bible Study	2 Nat'l Day of Prayer	3	4 Noon Jenkins baby shower
5 6th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am SS & BC 3:30 pm Confirmation Noon - Hope Youth	6 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Elders	7 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	8 6:30pm Bible Study	9 Ascension 1-3 Games 6:30pm Ascension Eve Worship [C]	10	11 11:00am Mother/Daughter Luncheon at Hope
12 7th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am SS & BC 3:30 pm Confirmation	13 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	14 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr. 3:30pm Admin Bd.	15 6:30pm Bible Study	16	17	18 10:00am Retreat & Prayer Service @ Redeemer, Jackson
19 Pentecost 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am SS & BC 3:30 pm Confirmation Noon - Hope Youth	20 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	21 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	22 6:30pm Bible Study Newsletter Deadline	23 1-3 Games	24	25
26 Holy Trinity 9:00am SS & BC 10:30am Worship [C]	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28 9:30am Gentz Sm. Gr.	29 6:30pm Bible Study	30	31	[C] = Communion

## May 2024 Servant Schedule

- May 5** 9:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Bill Kohn; **READERS:** YPS, Bill Kohn; **USHERS:** Tom & Jacob Sande; **COMMUNION:** Hilda Cortez; **ACOLYTE:** ; **GREETER:**
- 
- May 9** 6:30 p.m. **ELDER/READER:** Jim Logan
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- May 12** 9:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Rick Wetzel; **READERS:** Jennifer Sande, Rick Wetzel; **USHERS:** John & Jay Butler; **COMMUNION:** the Sande Family; **ACOLYTE:** ; **GREETER:**
- 
- May 19** 9:00 a.m. **ELDER:** Ron Gentz; **READERS:** Reicherts, Ron Gentz; **USHERS:** James P. Sheridan; **COMMUNION:** Sue Muck & Sara Hackney; **ACOLYTE:** ; **GREETER:**
- 
- May 26** 10:30 a.m. **ELDER:** John Butler; **READERS:** Carol Herter, John Butler; **USHERS:** Tom & Jacob Sande; **COMMUNION:** Mike & Darlene Fink; **ACOLYTE:** ; **GREETER:**

# Hail Our Risen & Ascended Lord