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The Voice of Hope Lutheran Church

The Rev. David M. Oddi,
Pastor
(816) 351-0744
pastordave59@gmail.com

Lay Minister Joyce
Cronin,
LCC Director
(660) 582-9294
layministerjoyce@gmail.com

Church Secretary
Jean Memken

Elder on Duty
Richard Oltman

Altar Guild on Duty
Pam Myers
Pat Bobzien



Sunday School 9:00 am
Adult Bible Class 9:00 am
(Cancelled due to Covid-19)
Worship 10:00 am
(Holy Communion on 1st
and 3rd Sundays)



Sunday Morning Worship
Service
with
Pastor Oddi

KNIM 1580 AM or 95.9 FM
10:00 am to 10:30 am

Hope Lutheran Church, 931 S. Main Street, Maryville, Mo 64468
Phone: 660-582-3262
Website: www.maryvillehopelcc.org E-mail: hopelutheranlcms@gmail.com



"The Greatest of These is Love"

1 Corinthians chapter 13 is known as the great love chapter. Parts of it are very often used as texts for wedding messages. People will also take quotes from it to use it for other occasions. These uses are fine as far as they go. But, what is St. Paul actually writing about? Here is the text from Holy Scripture, English Standard Version.

1 Corinthians 13:

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on

its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Why did St. Paul include this "Love Chapter" in his letter to the Corinthians? Look at the context. There were divisions within the Corinthian Church. There were arguments and

strife. There were issues with the Lord's Supper, as some went away hungry while others flaunted their wealth, ate, drank, and even got drunk. The Corinthians placed great worth on their "knowledge" and on the spiritual gifts that they truly valued, and Paul chided them for this. He told them that they were not acting in love. Look at what he tells us about love; Paul tells us that love never ends. Paul writes in verses 8 and 9 that prophecies, tongues, and even knowledge will all go away. But, love never ends. In verse 13, he ends the chapter by declaring that "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love.

"A summary of Christian virtues - 'Faith' and 'hope' are by nature imperfect, because they mature into 'knowledge' when the thing believed in or hoped for is reached. Love does not turn into something else but, remains love. Paul, in this passage, properly speaks about love towards one's neighbor and indicates that love is the greatest, because it has the most fruit.

(continued on page 2)



Our Faithful Servants



7/5 – Nancy Jenkins
 7/12 – Nancy Jenkins
 7/19 – Pam Shannon
 7/26 – Pam Shannon



June 28-July 4 – Cindy Carmichael
 July 5-11 – OPEN
 July 12-18 – Jan Duncan
 July 19-25 – Linda Ritterbusch
 July 26-August 1 – Phyllis Abbott

Expanding Our View of Service

We often think of serving in terms of Matthew 25: supplying food and clothing; caring for the sick, incarcerated and other “least of these” members of society - serving Jesus in the process. But we also can serve him with our unique talents and by doing things we love.

For example, a barber in England devotes some of his time off to giving homeless people free haircuts. Imagine Jesus saying, “For my hair was long and scraggly, and you cut it” - or “My heart was lonely, and you played music to lift my spirits. I could no longer read small print, and you read to me. I have to work two jobs, and you invited my child to spend afternoons crafting with you. My car broke down, and you repaired it.” Then the King will say, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father . . . whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sister of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:34, 40)

The Greatest of These is Love

(continued from page 1)

Faith and hope have to do only with God. But love has infinite offices outwardly toward humanity” (App V 105).

“Faith is never alone, but always has love and hope with it” (FC Ep III 11). This is what the note at the end of the chapter says: “By so completely describing and advocating love’s divine qualities, Paul reveals the Corinthians’ immaturity. He sharply rebukes all noisy, clanging boasts of superiority. Yet, he alludes to the fact that the Father—who knows His children all too well—still loves them, reaches for them by His Word, and will embrace them eternally because of Christ, who delivered Himself up for us all.”

Indeed, the greatest of these is LOVE.

During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, many are still concerned with their health or the health of family members for any reason whatsoever. We as Christians, brothers and sisters in and our Lord Christ, do best when we respond in Christian love, no matter how imperfect it may be. We remember Paul’s divinely inspired words that love never fails and we reach out in care and concern, in understanding and not criticism, but in LOVE.

Also during a time of civil unrest in the world and our country, we have many opportunities to show Christian love to our neighbor. We reach out with Christ’s love to those who are hurting. We reach out in Christian love to try to understand the feelings and the fears of others who have long faced hatred and prejudice.

We remember the never ending and unfailing love of God for us in Christ that while we were still His enemies and while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He showed us such great and unfathomable love as He atoned for our sins upon the cross. We love, we love Him because He first and so greatly loved us; and we are able to love our neighbor because He first loved us.

Speak and act in love toward God and love toward neighbor. And remember, that when in our sinfulness we fail, and we will, we can then in repentance and faith turn to a loving God who will forgive us for Jesus’ sake.

Indeed, the greatest of these is LOVE!

**GOD’S BLESSINGS
 PASTOR DAVE**





- 7/1 – Deanna Mandrick
- 7/3 – Phyllis Abbott
- 7/11 – Joe Pappert
- 7/11 – Matthew Strauch
- 7/14 – Lisa Ewing
- 7/16 – Larry Abbott
- 7/19 – Elizabeth Stoeckle
- 7/21 – Paula Sheil
- 7/24 – Frank Leyhe
- 7/29 – Pat Bobzien
- 7/30 – Cynthia Carmichael
- 7/31 – Ross Hullinger



- 7/1 – Jeremy & Stacy Mason
- 7/7 – Rick & Becky Hanna
- 7/12 – Carl & Marcia
Droegemueller
- 7/16 – Frank & Judy Leyhe



We have received word that the First Presbyterian Church is no longer having Shepherd's Kitchen. However, the First Christian Church has started a carry-out dinner option and our LWML will be investigating how they might get involved with that ministry. Look for more information in the bulletin announcements and newsletter as we find out more about this new ministry opportunity.



We Start Anew

The LWML will meet on June 30 at 6:30 pm to discuss the many activities that were postponed due to the Covid-19 shutdown. Of primary consideration will be the annual rummage sale for missions. This sale is typically held on the first weekend of April, and it is a major fund raiser for our local LWML society. They will decide whether or not they want to proceed with the sale later this summer or fall, or consider other options for using the donated items to support local service agencies.

Although the pandemic has put a number of activities on hold, it has not stopped the work of the LWML. The online version of the District Convention this year allowed delegates to vote on mission grants and officers for the upcoming biennium. Here are the mission grants that were approved for 2020-2022.

1. Rural Military & Campus Ministry Congregation Sprung a Leak - \$6,000
Faith Lutheran Church, Knob Noster, MO
2. Serving our Service Personal - \$14,000
Missouri District Board of Directors
3. Mission Central – Support at Just the Right Time - \$15,000
LCMS Mission Central
4. Christ the King Comfort Dog Ministry - \$10,000
Christ the King Lutheran Church, Lake Ozark, MO
5. The Nativity House - \$19,600
Free Women’s Center of Pulaski County, Waynesville, MO
6. Support for Concordia Seminary’s International Graduate Students - \$20,000
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO
7. Food & Clothing CO-Op - \$5,000
Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN
8. Soldiers of the Cross - \$5,000
LCMS Office of National Mission
9. I was a Stranger: Lutheran Books for Immigrants - \$12,000
Lutheran Heritage Foundation
10. Humanitri’s Tranformational Housing Children’s Program - \$15,000
Humanitri
11. Support for Missouri District Churches with Family Growth - \$14,000
Heit’s Point Lutheran Ministries
12. Filling Haitian Tummies Opens Ears to the Gospel - \$10,000
Trinity HOPE, Juliet, TN
13. Compassion, Help & Hope - \$18,276
The Pregnancy Help Center, St. Louis, MO
14. Saxony Lutheran High School “Give of Grace” (partial) - \$2,374
Saxony Lutheran High School, Jackson, MO

Total Mission Grant Goal - \$166,250



Here are the items that were discussed at the last Church Council Meeting on June 10.

The meeting was called to order by President Matt Gaarder. Others in attendance were Larry Abbott, Pam Myers, Karla Roush, Royce Duncan, Mike Mandrick, Dean Biermann, Pastor Oddi, and Kim Hullinger.

Reports:

Pastor: Pastor Oddi reported we have returned to some normalcy with our Sunday worship services. Full services are also being conducted on the first and third Wednesdays in June, with masks being required at these services. In terms of Voters' meetings, it was unanimously approved that there be a virtual component to the Voters' meeting on July 12.

Treasurer – Royce Duncan provided the quarterly report as well as a balance sheet for the month of May. This month's report reflects the economic stimulus payment from the CARES Act. We have fulfilled the requirements for this funding.

Elders: No additional information beyond what is in the regular report.

Trustees: Larry Abbott reported the leak over the door has been repaired. The large tree at the entrance to the church was destroyed by the recent storm, and it has been cut down and removed.

Finance: No additional information beyond what is in the regular report.

Evangelism: Dean Biermann reported they have not been able to make any visits due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Education: Karla Rouse reported that they have contacted the Sunday School teachers to collect the materials that were not used since the pandemic started. They will distribute them to the children for use at home.

Campus Relations: Pam Myers reported a tour was given to a potential resident at the Campus Center. The LCC board will provide an estimate of the cost to clean the Center before the start of the fall semester.

Old Business:

Church Secretary Position: Jean Memken's resignation will be effective June 30. An e-mail was sent to members with the job description. The Council voted to offer the position to Lesley Oddi for a three-month probationary period at \$9.80/hour.

New Business:

Voters' Meeting: The next Council meeting will be July 8, with the Voters' meeting on July 12.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Rough Road Ahead

It had been an especially long trip home, and the weary traveler still had many more miles to go. So he winced at a sign warning "Rough Road Ahead — 4 miles."

Rough, indeed. The lanes narrowed, and the shoulder disappeared. Traffic slowed to a crawl as drivers navigated around potholes and moving construction equipment. But sure enough, after exactly four miles, the road became smooth again.

"In this world you will have trouble," Jesus said. *"But take heart! I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33) Notice that Jesus didn't say we "might" have trouble. Sooner or later, problems will come. The road will get rough. But Jesus has already defeated everything the world can throw our way. We just have to keep moving, fueled on by hope.



Aim High

Did you ever hear a sermon that really stuck with you? One that you think you will probably remember the rest of your life? No matter how good a pastor is at preaching, there are probably very few examples of their oration that reach that pinnacle. That's why it is good they preach every week so that our minds can once again hear the Good News and have it carry us through the week, and then we can come back and hear it again the following week.

There is actually one sermon, though, that I remember, and it truly has stuck with me. That sermon was based on Matthew 5:8: "*You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*"

I was fairly young when I heard this sermon, perhaps in junior high at the time. I remember thinking as this pastor was talking about being perfect that I could never be perfect. No one can be perfect except God. It made me really think about what it means to be "perfect," in God's sight, and to be thankful that I have a perfect Savior in Christ Jesus who covers my imperfections and makes me perfect before God.

I once read about a man from England who was a champion gardener, and for ten years in a row, he had won the gold medal for his vegetable display at the Chelsea Flower Show.

A reporter asked the man the secret to his success, to which he replied, "I aim for perfection. But I settle for excellence."

Aim for perfection. That conjures up another Bible passage: 2 Corinthians 13:11, where Paul writes: *Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.* This is the King James Version of the passage, but in today's English Standard Version, it reads: *Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.*

So Paul is telling the Christians of Corinth that they are not actually to be perfect, but they should strive for perfection, and live a life that reflects their restored relationship with God that Christ won for them on the cross. And then he gives some examples of what they should be doing to live that restored life – aiming for perfection, but settling for the excellence they can achieve as forgiven children of God.

In other words, Paul is saying to these new Christians, "aim high." No, you can't be perfect, but that shouldn't stop you from working hard to do the best you can and with Christ's help, you can be an excellent Christian.

So what does that have to do with us at this time, stuck mostly at home because of the pandemic, not knowing what is going to happen with our economy, our typical way of life, and our

government? How can we aim high when we can't freely live our lives like we used to?

Here are a few suggestions:

Be joyful. Jesus wants you to be full of joy. He said so in John 15:11. Remember His words to His disciples: *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

And what was Jesus speaking about that could transfer His joy to His friends? He mentions "*abiding in Him and letting His word abide in you.*" He talks about bearing fruit. He challenges them to keep the commandments.

So joy in and from Jesus comes from doing good works, and hearing God's word, and then striving to follow it.

I have been so blessed these past seven years because I could go to work each day and do exactly that. But what brought me even greater joy was seeing you come to church and doing that as well. Thank you for being the face of Christ for me and for bringing so much joy to my life.

Be loving. It is probably not a coincidence that the only miracle Jesus did that is recorded in all four gospels is

the feeding of the 5,000. I always used to think of that miracle as one that showed us Jesus' amazing power. But more than that, I realize now it shows us Jesus' amazing love.

Jesus didn't just preach to that crowd. He loved them. He was concerned for their physical well-being. He wanted them to be nourished and comfortable. He wanted to show His love by giving them something to eat. And don't forget, he involved His disciples in that miraculous meal. "*You give them something to eat,*" He told them. He instructed them to serve that meal and clean up afterwards. He does that with us, too. And He can make any loving act we do miraculous as well.

Once again, I think of the many acts of love I experienced while working for you here at Hope. I remember the quilters tying knot after knot to help those in need. I think of the LWML members and all their activities, always "serving the Lord with gladness." I remember our trustees and how they lovingly care for our building. I remember our treasurer coming every week (and sometimes more) to take care of our church finances and our Finance Committee counting every offering.

(continued on page 6)



From the LCC Director

We have great news! Aiden and Collin are moving into the LCC! I'm not positive what the 2020-2021 school year is going to look like, due to the COVID-19. I've heard fewer, but longer breaks. I don't know if they'll have SCORE or The Student Activities Fair. I looked on NORTHWEST'S website and it has not been updated. I received the check from LWML for the Retreat in Columbia.....thank you ladies so much! I will get the gas money dispersed. I had hoped to go Chicago for the LCMS "Making the Case Seminar" put on by Lutheran Public Radio's Issues Etc., but then my mom got sick. It has now gone virtual and I can watch it at my convenience, so I think I'll sign up for it now. The students are interested in Counter-Culture focused Bible Studies and this will help me continue in that direction. The updated banner is up! Thank you Larry! Pam and Marie are getting the house ready! Thank you ladies! I want to get recycling set up this year, I know we have the bins; we just need to use them. I'm not doing different shirts at this time. I have some left I'll give to new students and then I'll let them design their own when they're ready. I'm excited about the year and ask for your prayers to reach more students. Thanks for your continued support!--Joyce Cronin, LCC Director



Aim High

(continued from page 5)


I think of our Altar Guild members and our Sunday School staff. I think of people I could always count on: Smiley, who built me shelves and coat hooks and always helped when I called, Ralph who would fix things that I needed fixing, Pam and Marcia who always made sure the church was beautifully decorated, Marie who cheerfully sharpened pencils, the Henrys who always had a kind word each week when they came in and prepared the coffee and Bibles for Sunday morning Bible class, and so many more. And of course, I remember the food: the LCC meals, the potlucks, VBS cookout, Shepherd's kitchen, the Soup Supper, etc. We didn't feed 5,000, but we shared Jesus' love and compassion each time we gathered for a meal.

Be full of the Spirit. God gave the children of Israel the Promised Land as an inheritance. Guess what? He gave us an inheritance, too. He gave us Jesus. Paul writes about that in Acts 13. First he writes, ". . . for about forty years he endured their conduct in the wilderness; and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, giving their land to his people as their inheritance." (vs. 17-19) and then in later in the chapter, he writes, "What God promised our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus." (vs. 32-33).

The Promised Land wasn't just choice real estate. It was God's promise to His people that they would enjoy an intimate relationship with Him, and He would prosper them and protect them in this rich and bountiful land. It foreshadows the "Kingdom of God" found in the New Testament that is fulfilled in Jesus. That is our inheritance, and it is one, as Peter writes, that is ". . . an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you . . ." (1 Peter 1:4) In other words, it is eternal - our eternal promised land in heaven.

But even better news. We don't have to wait to take advantage of this inheritance. We can have at least a taste of it right now. Again, as Paul writes, this time in Ephesians 1: "Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance" (vs. 13-14). If you let the Holy Spirit work in you, your life will be changed. And as you live in the Spirit, you will produce those fruits of the Spirit that Paul writes about in Galatians 5:22, namely love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness gentleness and self-control. That's definitely aiming high for any Christian.


Over the last seven years, I have seen countless examples of God's spirit working in people to produce good fruit. I am happy that I could share in that work. And even though we are limited by this pandemic, we can still aim high and think of creative ways to be joyful, loving, and filled with God's Spirit. I know that is what I plan to do as God leads me to new ways to serve Him in Wisconsin. I pray it is your plan as well as we share our common goal of loving God and loving our neighbor. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to share God's love with you. May He continue to bless each one of you and bless this wonderful church we call Hope.--jm






WATER WORKS!


The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.


Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.

 + e _____
 Water changes to _____
 JOHN 2:1-11

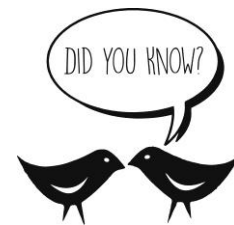
 - k + d _____
 Heals a man born _____
 JOHN 9

 - op +  - w _____
 Calms a _____
 MATTHEW 8:23-27

f +  - d _____
 Catch of _____
 LUKE 5:1-11

 - ch + er _____
 Walks on _____
 MATTHEW 14:22-33

Answer: wine, blind, storm, fish, water



--**Pat Bobzien** is our new Alter Guild Director! Thank you, Pat, for volunteering to take on this important responsibility. And a very sincere thank you to all the altar guild members for carrying on your duties even though we didn't have services in house for several months. Here are our faithful Alter Guild Servants:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Pat Bobzien | Liz Mandrick |
| Pam Myers | Jan Duncan |
| Phyllis Abbott | Marie Walsh |
| Beth Goudge | Cindy Carmichael |
| Kim Hullinger | Twyla Hazen |
| Mary Ann Zanzie | |

--Our church secretary, **Jean Memken**, will be moving to Wisconsin on July 1. Here's her new address:

Jean Memken
 1552 Remington Rd.
 Neenah, WI 54956

--We welcome **Lesley Oddi** as our new church secretary. Lesley has been training these last two weeks, and will started on the job on Thursday. Be sure to give her a warm welcome! Thank you, Lesley!

Have a Good Flight ...

The Sunday School teacher asked her class to draw a picture of their favorite Bible story. One little boy drew a picture of four people on an airplane. "That's very nice," she said to him, "but what is it about?"

"That's the flight to Egypt," said the little boy.

"Oh, I see. That's Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. But who is the fourth person?"

"That's Pontius the Pilot."

