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Sunday School 9:00 am
 Adult Bible Class 9:00 am
 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
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“March: Madness, Sadness or Happiness”

Brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome to the month of March. How do you look at this month, the third month of the year? Let’s take a little look at what March of 2019 has in store for us. March 6th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season. We prepare for the joyous celebration of Easter, the day of our Savior’s triumphant resurrection from the dead, by remembering just why Jesus had to suffer and die on the cross. The theme for our Lenten worship and preparation this year is “Revelation in Lent”. We will be going to journey through the letters to the seven churches in Revelation chapters two and three.

There are other things going on in March. What has been dubbed as “March Madness,” the NCAA basketball tournament gets going with selection Sunday on March 17th. The field of 64 is selected and play starts with the end result of crowning a champion in early April.

Baseball is in the midst of “Spring Training” getting ready for the start of the regular season on the 28th.

Also, the 20th of March is the first day of spring. Most of us would probably agree that this has been a long, cold, and snowy winter. Spring will be very welcome indeed. Winter is very often dark and gloomy with long bouts of not seeing the sun. Many are affected with SAD or seasonal affective disorder. In most cases, seasonal affective disorder symptoms appear during late fall or early winter and go away during the sunnier days of spring and summer. So, it is little wonder that during the fall and winter many people seem to be locked in a cloud of sadness.

But guess what? There is another March observance, and

it is one that many of you may not have heard of. This is the International day of Happiness. I find that very interesting as our “Declaration of Independence” says that “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” are three ‘unalienable rights’ that have been given to all humans by their creator, and which governments are created to protect.” So, yes, you have read this correctly. March 20th, again, also the beginning of Spring, is International Happiness Day. Just a bit of background about this day from www.dayofhappiness.net; “A profound shift in attitudes is underway all over the world. People are now recognizing that ‘progress’ should be about increasing human happiness and wellbeing, not just growing the economy.

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Organist

3/3 – Nancy Jenkins
 3/6 – Pam Shannon
 3/10 – Nancy Jenkins
 3/13 – Nancy Jenkins
 3/17 – Pam Shannon
 3/20 – Pam Shannon
 3/24 – Nancy Jenkins
 3/27 – Nancy Jenkins
 3/31 – Pam Shannon



3/3 – The Whiteds
 3/6 – The Bettises
 3/10 – Mary Ann Zanzie
 3/13 – Jean Memken
 3/17 – The Bobziens
 3/20 – The Henrys
 3/24 – The Walshes
 3/27 – The Bobziens
 3/31 – Pam Myers



3/3 – The Roushes
 3/6 – Larry Abbott
 3/10 – The Biermanns
 3/13 – Jean Memken
 3/17 – The Duncans
 3/20 – The Ewings
 3/24 – The Ritterbusches
 3/27 – Jean Memken
 3/31 – The Duncans



3/3 – Chaim Jenkins
 3/10 – Pastor Oddi
 3/17 – Twyla Hazen
 3/24 – Marie Walsh
 3/31 – Jean Memken

March: Madness, Sadness or Happiness

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March 20 has been established as the annual International Day of Happiness and all 193 United Nations member states have adopted a resolution calling for happiness to be given greater priority. In 2011, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution which recognized happiness as a “fundamental human goal” and called for “a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach to economic growth that promotes the happiness and well-being of all peoples”. In 2012, the first ever UN conference on Happiness took place and the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution which decreed that the International Day of Happiness would be observed every year on 20 March. It was celebrated for the first time in 2013. This year's theme is “Share Happiness - focusing on the importance of relationships, kindness and helping each other.”

So, March – Madness, Sadness, or Happiness? This world certainly seems to be mired in madness. Sin is the culprit, of course. Sin has placed us into the madness of anger, hate, rebellion against God, and all manner of evil. This evil madness is also a cause and reason for the great sadness the world is locked in the grips of.

So, it is little wonder that humanity is on a search for happiness. We all hunger to be happy, to be fulfilled, and to be loved. But, so often people run to things that do not bring happiness, but only emptiness and frustration. God's Word tells us where true happiness, true joy is to be found. In Luke 10:19-20, Jesus tells His disciples, “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” Our names are written in heaven because of the great love God has for us in the sending of His Son Jesus the Christ to be our Savior. Without this we would be lost and that saying of “Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die” would be depressingly true.

But as redeemed people of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, we rejoice and find our happiness in the fact that when this life is over, our eternal life in heaven begins where there will no more sorrow or tears, but we will rejoice in the presence of God our Savior forevermore!

In the madness and sadness that this world brings we can sing with Johann Lindemann who wrote the hymn “In Thee is Gladness” #818 in the *Lutheran Service Book*.

1. “In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness
 Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
 By Thee are given, the gifts of heaven,
 Thou the true Redeemer art.
 Our souls Thou wakest, our bonds Thou breakest;
 Who trusts Thee surely, has built securely;
 He stands forever: Allelujah!
 Our hearts are pining, to see Thy shining,
 Dying or living, to Thee are cleaving;
 Naught can us sever: Allelujah!”
2. “Since He is ours,--We fear no powers,
 Not of earth nor sin nor death.
 He sees and blesses in worst distresses;
 He can change them with a breath.
 Wherefore the story, tell of His glory
 With hearts and voices; all heav'n rejoices
 In Him forever: Allelujah!
 We shout for gladness, Triumph o'er sadness,
 Love Him and praise Him and still shall raise Him
 Glad hymns forever: Allelujah!”



- 3/2 – Marcia Droegemueller
- 3/2 – Katelyn Ewing
- 3/6 – Geoff Goudge
- 3/6 – Brett Poppa
- 3/12 – Pam Myers
- 3/16 – Chaim Jenkins
- 3/16 – Marie Walsh
- 3/21 – Wendy Riley
- 3/23 – Andrea Riley



- 3/14 – Gary & Pat Bobzien
- 3/17 – Kevin & Sheila Brunnert



- March 14, 2019, 5:00 pm
- Twyla Hazen
 - Lesley Oddi



LWML Makes Lots of Plans

The LWML met on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm for our monthly meeting. We began by enjoying refreshments provided by hostess Liz Mandrick.

The ingathering was for the Children & Family Services.

At 7:15 pm, our Vice President, Liz Mandrick called the meeting to order. Twyla Hazen opened the meeting with a prayer. Members present included Liz Mandrick, Mary Ann Zanzie, Marie Walsh, Jean Memken, Phyllis Abbott, Virginia McNair, Twyla Hazen, and Beth Goudge.

Jean Memken led the devotion “Fixing Your Hearts.” In our society the focus is on self. We think that if we have certain things, we can be happy. As Christians we should object to these thoughts because we know that our happiness is centered in Jesus our Savior. God’s word in the bible opens us up to reveal the true conditions and needs of our hearts. The heart needs **GUARDING** because our human nature’s desire is to sin. We need to trust in God because we are sick in sin and only God can guard our deceitful hearts. The heart needs **GIVING** because when we give our hearts it makes us vulnerable. Giving the heart means involvement with God, our families, both Christians and non - Christians. The heart needs **PREPARING** which we can do by having fellowship with others, worshiping, praying and singing praises. The heart needs **PURIFYING** by being renewed, tested and through confession and repentance. The heart needs **PROSTRATING** which means we need to worship, love and seek God with **ALL** of our hearts. We need to open our hearts to God. The heart needs **POURING** – Psalm 62:8 – Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.

We had no guests or new members.

Birthday greetings were extended to Mary Ann Zanzie, Lesley Oddi and Beth Goudge.

Secretary’s report - Twyla Hazen presented the minutes from January 8, 2019. Minutes were approved as printed.

Correspondence

1. Lutheran World Relief
2. Email from Sally Handrick LWML District President concerning our mite shortfall. National President Patti Ross encouraged all ladies to give generously.
3. Thank you note from Ashley, Andrea and Allison Riley for the Christmas ornaments.
4. Thank you from Synod for our gift to the Cima’s.

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LWML Makes Lots of Plans

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Treasurer's report – Virginia McNair presented her report which was then filed for review. See her report at the end of the minutes.

Unfinished Business

- 1) Sunday school ornaments – we have extra ones. These will be placed at the back of the church and Jean will put something in the bulletin that anyone can take.
- 2) Love gift ideas – new white altar cloth and black paraments. Jean Memken will research. Bring other ideas to the March meeting.
- 3) Treat boxes for college students – we packed and prepared for mailing.
- 4) Spring Rally – Saturday, March 16, 2019. Lesley had prepared a sign up sheet for various things that were needed. We will finalize at our March meeting.

New Business

- 1) Rummage Sale – April 5-6, 2019. The congregation can bring items to the church between March 1 and March 31. Lesley will write an article for the church newsletter. Virginia will put ads in the paper. Phyllis Abbott will make sign up sheets to be passed around at the March meeting.
- 2) Twyla reported that when she was changing banners last month the finial from one of the rods fell on the floor and broke. Liz volunteered to try and glue it back together.

Mite Box devotion led by Jean Memken. The featured grant this month is **Restoration Programs for Native Hawaiians 2017–2019 Mission Grant 18 — \$75,000.** Most people think of Hawaii as paradise, but to Native Hawaiians, Kanaka, it is quite a different place. In recent years, the number of homeless people in Hawaii has grown, with poverty rising, leaving few people in the middle class. Most of the ministry work is done in urban areas by non-Kanaka men and women to non-Kanaka people. To successfully engage the Kanaka people in the Christian faith and to provide the support and assistance that Kanaka people need to begin to overcome the serious social issues that plague them, missionaries must embrace the Kanaka culture. Clarence DeLude III (Kanaka), who is on staff with Lutheran Indian Ministries, is enrolled in the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center Program at Concordia University, Irvine, California, which leads to ordination. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, Clarence, a Native Hawaiian will be used as God's instrument in bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to his fellow Kanaka people. Grant funds would be used for scholarships for Clarence, VBS/Teen Camp, on-going Bible study, and Sexual Abuse and Leadership Training (SALT) seminars. Jean closed the mite box devotion with a prayer.

Next Meeting:

- 1) Tuesday, March 5 at 7:00 pm
- 2) Hostess is Beth Goudge
- 3) Devotion leader is Twyla Hazen
- 4) Ingathering is for the Community Services Energy Services
- 5) Shepherd's kitchen March 14 - Twyla Hazen and Lesley Oddi

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Twyla Hazen, Secretary

“Lettuce” Get Together at the LWML Zone Rally

The Zone LWML Spring Rally will be held here at Hope on March 16. The theme for the Rally is “Lettuce” Grow in Grace” and the featured program will be speakers from “Lettuce Dream” a local non-profit that serves our community. Please join us for this fun and interesting day of food, fellowship, Bible study and Christian growth. Registration is \$3 and begins at 9:00 am. There will be a continental breakfast served before the program, and a salad luncheon, featuring produce from Lettuce Dream, will end the morning's activities. All women from our St. Joseph Zone are invited to attend, but all members of Hope congregation are also invited to join us. Come and be enriched by God's word and Christian fellowship. Learn about Lettuce Dream and the good work they do in our community. We hope to see many of you on March 16 here at Hope as we open our doors to the LWML Zone members!



Being Mary in a Martha World

So, I have known the Bible account of Mary and Martha for a very long time, since my Sunday School days as a child. You remember Mary and Martha? Jesus paid them a visit and Mary sat at his feet and listened to his teaching, while her sister Martha worked tirelessly to make sure there was something to feed their special guest. I always liked that story, imagining what it must have been like to have Jesus right in your own home. But there was kind of a sticking point that stayed with me every time I heard it. You see, I come from a family of Marthas. And it always seemed to me that Martha never got the proper recognition for her efforts in that story.

I grew up on a farm which meant long days of work, especially in the summer and fall. My father would come in from the field, usually with a hired hand, a high school boy looking to make some summer money, and my mom would prepare a very nice, big dinner. As I got a little older, I would help with this, setting the table and other simple chores, which was where I learned my way around the kitchen, a skill I am very thankful for.

That skill wasn't wasted at family gatherings for holidays, special events and family reunions. The women gathered in the kitchen before and after the meals to work (and talk, of course) and the men retired to the living room, or outside in nice weather. All of this

was perfect training to be a Martha. If someone came to the our home, time to mobilize! Get the coffee on. What snack or sweet can we serve? If they stay for dinner, what can we make? Full blown Martha mode!

In our weekly women's Bible Study, we have been studying the women in the gospel of Luke, and it has been a wonderful study, full of lively discussion about the role women played in the church during Jesus' time on earth and the role they play now. One of my favorite units was about Mary and Martha. Here's what I learned.

First, Jesus was traveling with his disciples when he visited Bethany and the home of Mary and Martha. Therefore, they probably didn't have a guest of one, but at least 13, and maybe more because we learned in our study there were others besides the disciples traveling with Jesus. So Martha probably had a house full of guests! You can understand her anxiousness about getting the work done to feed this crowd.

Secondly, preparing a meal in Biblical times was no easy feat, especially when you think that the cook not only prepared the food, they had to grow, raise or barter for every ingredient. The cooktop and oven was a fire pit outdoors, and of course, there was no refrigeration, so things had to be prepared and eaten quickly or else they would spoil.

Just think about what it would take to make a loaf of bread in those days. First, Martha

would have to grow the wheat and then once it was grown, harvest it. She would then have to separate the grain from the chaff, and then grind the grain into flour. Then she would have to combine the flour with some water (fetched from the river) and oil (pressed from olives that had be grown, harvested and processed), and bake it outside. Okay so there's one dish. Now on to prepare the rest of the meal! Can you see why Martha wanted Mary to help her a little bit? This description makes the words of the Lord's Prayer, "and give us this day our daily bread" all the more amazing when you think how much effort went into making that bread.

Although women's roles within the culture were firmly set, Jesus changed things for women then and women now in many ways. Jesus encouraged women to learn. He wanted the best for them. He taught women and called on women to tell the Good News about his ministry. He healed them, he showed them compassion and respect. He honored them and even elevated one above the temple leaders (remember the poor widow and her mites? Jesus said she gave the best offering of all).

None of this was lost on Martha's sister, Mary. If Jesus dared to be different when it came to the role of women, Mary was first in line to embrace that. So

when Jesus came to the house, she wanted to hear what he had to say. She wanted to be near him. She was happy to be able to sit at his feet and learn from him. I imagine she was a very good student.

When Martha complained to Jesus about Mary's lack of help, he admonished her in such a loving way. Remember his words: "*Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.*" (Luke 10:41-42). In other words, Martha, while you are busy in the kitchen, the main course is already being served. Don't you want some?



And then the story ends. We don't know what Martha did, do we? Do you think she rolled her eyes, turned around and headed back to the kitchen, or did

she encourage her sister to scoot over and make room because she was going to sit at Jesus' feet next to her? Luke doesn't tell us. But maybe that's the whole point of this story.

Martha had a busy schedule - maybe a little too busy for Jesus, even though all her work was supposedly for him. And sometimes I find myself falling into that trap as well. Remember, I was raised to be a good Martha! But throughout my life I was very good at rationalizing why I needed to do something at home other than read my Bible or daily devotions.

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LWML Rummage Sale

It's that time of year again. Start bringing your gently used household items, clothing, electronics (with all cords), books and games for our annual LWML Rummage Sale which will be held April 5-6 here at the church. You can take your donations down to the storage room in the church basement.

Also, we will need a LOT of help getting the sale set up and ready and also during the actual sale days. If you can spare a few hours for a good cause, please sign up when the sign-up sheet goes up in the back of the church. Let's make this the biggest and best LWML Rummage Sale to date!



Here are some of the things that were discussed at the last Church Council Meeting.

Elders: Dean Biermann reported that Rob Chinberg moved to Kansas City, so there are now only four elders with two elder positions open.

Finance: Mike Mandrick reported the Time and Talent sheet data has been compiled and distributed to elders and church officers.

No additional information from Trustees, Education, LCC Board or Long Range planning.

There was no new or old business.

Being Mary in a Martha World

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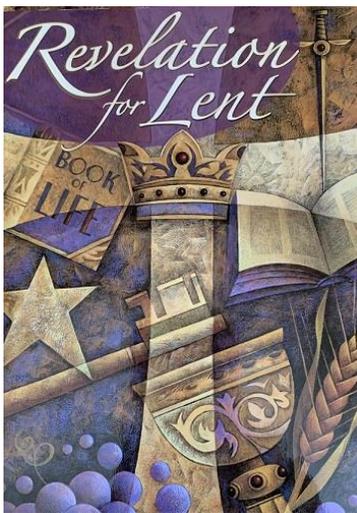
Too busy to sit down and spend a little time talking to God in prayer. There was my career, my husband, my kids and all their activities, so much to do! Sound familiar?

What do you Jesus think might say to us if we came to him with all our excuses of being busy? Probably the same thing as he said to Martha. *You are anxious about all the things you have to do, but what I offer is the only thing necessary to your happiness.* And then he gives us a choice.

Now, don't think I am telling you to abandon your responsibilities here on earth, but I hope you will heed Christ's words, and make a little more time for him, especially as we embark on the season of Lent. I am looking forward to our Wednesday night worship services this year, based on the book of Revelations. There are so many wonderful things to learn from Jesus' messages to the seven churches that are applicable to us today. Come and learn from him. Make it a point to be a Mary and resist those Martha urges if even just for an hour. You won't regret it.—jm

Seven churches of the ancient world received messages from Jesus Christ through the revelation of the apostle John. What do these letters have to say to the modern church?

Based on Revelation 2:1—3:22, each week focuses on one ancient city, its unique challenges, Christ's call to "hold on to what you have," and how this message still applies today. With special emphasis on why we need Jesus Christ to do what we are unable to do, these services will help you focus prayerfully on the Savior's sacrifice for our salvation and the faith and hope that He alone gives. Here's the schedule: for our Midweek Lenten Worship:



March 6 – Ash Wednesday – Love Lost, Death Found – Letter to Ephesus

March 13 – Fear Unto Death vs. Courage Unto Life – Letter to Laodicea

March 20 – Idolatry is the Deadliest Sin – Letter to Pergamum

March 27 – Immorality, Highway to the Grave – Letter to Philadelphia

April 3 – Lethargy – Slow Death – Letter to Sardis

April 10 – Neglect – Locked Out in Death's Night – Letter to Smyrna

April 18 – Maundy Thursday – Complacency – Death by Indifference – Letter to Thyatira

April 19 – Good Friday – Seven Words for Seven Churches



SIGNS OF *Rebirth*

Isaiah 35 describes the rebirth of a dry land when Jesus returns, as well as the signs of God's beautiful creation at springtime.

Directions: Solve each math problem. Then write the words in order, from smaller numbers to larger numbers, in the spaces below.

bloom 6+1= ____	blossom 2x2= ____	rejoice 4x2= ____
burst 3+3= ____	wilderness 2+1= ____	joy 5+5= ____
crocus 3+2= ____	desert 1x0= ____	parched 0+1= ____
glad 2x1= ____	shout 10-1= ____	

"The _____ and the _____ land will be _____; the _____ will rejoice and _____. Like the _____, it will _____ into _____; it will _____ greatly and _____ for _____."

Isaiah 35:1-2, NIV

Answers: The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

Remaining Anonymous

When an elderly woman asked a church usher to seat her close to the pulpit, he tried to talk her out of it. "If you sit up front, you won't be able to sleep," he said.

The woman looked the usher square in the face and asked, "Do you know who I am?"

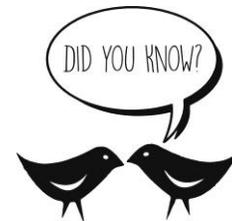
"No, I don't," he responded.

"Well," she said firmly, "I'm the preacher's mother."

Fully embarrassed, the usher asked, "Do you know who I am?"

"No," she answered.

"Good!" whispered the fellow. "Sit anywhere you want."



-- **Ashley Riley** has chosen to attend Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska next year. Ashley will be studying biology (pre-med) and will be a part of the Creighton cross country team. The photo below shows Ashley and her family and coaches as she signs her letter of intent. Congratulations, Ashley!



-- Once again, **Vanessa Pappert** was named "Athlete of the Week" by the Maryville Daily Forum and Nodaway Valley Bank. Vanessa scored a team-high 17 points a game two weeks ago against East Atchison. Way to go, Vanessa!

--Congratulations to the Jefferson Girls' Basketball team, especially **Vanessa Pappert, Ashley Riley, and Jaclyn Pappert** for their outstanding season and 2nd place finish in the district tournament!