

From the Pastor

Greetings,

This past Sunday's gospel lesson included these words from Jesus about his upcoming death and resurrection, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit... And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12:24, 32.)

John Shea in thinking about these words writes, "The grain of wheat that falls into the ground and dies in order to produce fruit" suggests that death is a transformative process. There is the acorn that needs to be cracked open in order to become an oak; the cocoon that needs to be split in order for the butterfly to emerge; the candle whose flaming wick melts the wax in order that the light and heat happen. Embracing this vision -- that death is a transition that leads to higher and greater being -- might be essential for peaceful living. At least the last lines of Goethe's "The Holy Longing" seem to suggest this:

"And so long as you haven't experienced
This: to die and so to grow,
You are only a troubled guest
On the dark earth."

To die and so to grow. Along with our ultimate death, we experience many other deaths in our life. Deaths such as job loss, aging, bad test results, not getting a promotion, family and friends dying or moving away. We face many small, medium, and large deaths in our lives. Each death is an invitation to see the new life in which Christ is bearing much fruit. When we're in the midst of these deaths we usually don't think, "I wonder what bounty of fruit Christ will produce out of this?" Instead we go to a dark place within ourselves when we hear about the bad test result. We fume and rage when we lose our job or fail the final exam. We gasp when we are treated unfairly. We grow weary and distant when someone treats us unkindly. These responses are our normal responses to loss, it's how our bodies respond to loss. Jesus says about his own death, our ultimate death, and all our little deaths along life's way, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears

much fruit... And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12:24, 32.)" Jesus promises to draw us to himself and bear much fruit from death.

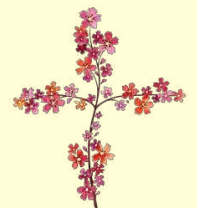
Mary Magdalene on Easter morning standing, looking into Jesus' tomb, is asked by who she believes is the gardener, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" (John 20:15a.) Surprisingly, it is Jesus asking her these questions, "Why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" For us, like Mary, at times we stand looking into the empty tomb of our dreams, hopes, expectations, our very lives -- seeing what appears to be dashed dreams, hopelessness, disappointment, and death -- unable to conceive of anything else. Jesus promises us that not only will we be drawn to him through his death and resurrection, but also Jesus will bring forth life from death. Out of our death and our little deaths, we are promised Christ's presence and abundance.

How many of us, many years following a difficult, tragic experience or loss haven't thought some or all of these thoughts "Wow. I wouldn't have said it then, but now I can see God's presence during that time. I can see God's blessings flowing out of that experience. I'm a kinder, more compassionate person following that difficult experience. I know myself better and I know what's important in my life. I have a clearer sense of purpose."

Bearing fruit and being drawn to Christ is not something we "do" it's the new life flowing from the cross and resurrection of Jesus. Our Lenten reflection question as a congregation has been, "Can we as a congregation give up fear for Lent?"

May Christ embolden us, in our living and in our dying, to be courageous and fearless in the Lord. May Christ grow us in our ability to comfort and encourage one another. Helping us see that each morning is Easter morning. Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ,
Pastor Kari



APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

APRIL 5 - EASTER

8:00 WORSHIP

Assisting Minister: **CHERYL KLEIN**

10:30 WORSHIP

Assisting Minister: **NANCY GREGORY**

Reader: **JUDI GAGE**

Cantor: **PAT VANCE**

HALELUJAH!

Acolyte: **MATT SCHULTZ**

Altar Guild: **MITZI HENKE**

Ushers/Sound: **KEITH & KYLIE GAGE**

Greeters: **CHUCK & NANCY GREGORY**

Coffee Hour: **POTLUCK BREAKFAST**

Flowers: **CONGREGATION—EASTER PLANTS**

Communion Bread: **PAULINE NORTHROP**



APRIL 12

8:00 WORSHIP

Assisting Minister: **DICK KOCH**

10:30 AM WORSHIP

Assisting Minister:

Reader: **BOB SPAGNOLI**

Cantor: **AMIRA SIEBER**

Acolyte: **KENNA SIEBER**

Altar Guild: **DIANNA SHERMAN**

Ushers/Sound:

Greeters: **MAURY & SHIRLEY THOMPSON**

Coffee Hour:

Flowers:

Communion Bread: **PAULINE NORTHROP**

APRIL 19

8:00 WORSHIP

Assisting Minister: **CHERYL KLEIN**

10:30 AM WORSHIP

Assisting Minister: **BRIAN ROBLER**

Reader: **JUDI GAGE**

Cantor:

Acolyte: **EMMA OTT**

Altar Guild: **MITZE HENKE**

Ushers/Sound: **KEITH & KYLIE GAGE**

Greeters:

Coffee Hour: **PHIL MAASS - THRIVENT FINANCIAL**

Flowers:

Communion Bread: **PAULINE NORTHROP**

APRIL 26

8:00 WORSHIP

Assisting Minister: **DICK KOCH**

10:30 AM WORSHIP

Assisting Minister: **SANDY FLETCHER**

Reader: **SANDY FLETCHER**

Cantor: **BOB SPAGNOLI**

Acolyte: **PAIJE SCHEPPELMAN**

Altar Guild: **JUDI GAGE**

Ushers/Sound:

Greeters:

Coffee Hour:

Flowers: **MARNE SIEBER - in Memory of her brother Carl**

Communion Bread: **PAULINE NORTHROP**

CAPTAINS

(responsible for filling positions monthly)

Assisting Minister: _____ **Captain Needed**

Reader: *Judi Gage*

Cantor: *Marne Sieber*

Acolyte: *Tammy Gage*

Altar Guild: *Tammy Gage*

Ushers/Sound: *Linda Cole*

Greeters: *Nancy Gregory*

Coffee Hour: *Sig La Liberté & Laura Moore*

Nursery: *Marne Sieber*

Communion Bread: *Bill Vance*



Please enter your name on the chart in the narthex on the hymnal cart. Find an open slot where you are able to serve or contact the church office at 269-685-1348 or hopeleplawell@sbcglobal.net or call a Captain.

SERVE

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers:

Deb Schubert

Patrick Moore (dialysis)

Bob & Walt Vance (Bill's brothers)

Mary & family (Pat Vance's sister)

Amy Woodruff (recovering)

Chuck Anderson (Marne's Dad)

Sarita Mannaberg (cancer)

Sally Henrixson (mourning friend)

Tom Mc Afee (cancer)

Kasper Family (adoption process)

Sherry Dodes (sister of Sandy Fletcher)

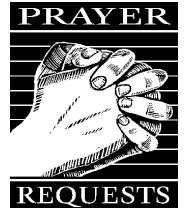
Family of Barb Jager (her passing)

Dawn Roblyer (healing from surgery)

Pat Vance (healing, knee replacement)

Dick Northrop (recovering from a fall and in rehab)

Marilyn & Al Maass (both recovering from surgery)



SYNOD PRAYER CONCERNS:

Pray for our N/W Lower Michigan Synod Leaders:

Bishop Craig Satterlee and Assistants to the Bishop - Pastor Sarah & Pastor Dave. Our Episcopal Partner, Bishop Wayne Houghland.



SYNOD PRAYER PARTNERS FOR MARCH

Date Congregation/Ministry Leader:

April 5 Trinity Lutheran Church/Grand Rapids, Pastor Robert Linstrom, Associate Pastor Sarah Stobie

Other congregations in your community, Local Pastoral Leaders

April 12 St. John Lutheran Church/Grayling, Pastor David Blake

April 19 St. Paul Lutheran Church/Greenville, Pastor David Blake

April 26 Grace Lutheran Church/Hastings, Pastor Amy Luckey
Covenant HealthCare/Saginaw, Kathy Bonn, Diaconal Minister

Earth Day / Arbor Day Sunday, April 19



Semi-Annual Meeting and Potluck

Sunday, April 26 - Following 10:30 Worship



REMINDER . . .

Worship & Music will meet on Tuesday,
April 14 at 4:00 p.m. **4:00 P.M.**

Council Meeting Tues. April 14 2015

Council members are reading the book by Bishop Craig Satterlee, *When God Speaks Through You: How Faith Convictions Shape Preaching and Mission* (Vital Worship Healthy Congregations).



Flowers for the Sanctuary on Sundays...

We will begin having members purchase and bring flowers for the church service on Sundays. Some people may wish to make them in honor of a special person or event. Sign-up on the Worship Assistants form on the hymnal cart in the narthex.



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

29-Bob & Jeanne Spagnoli



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3-Jeff Rood

4-Bill Vance, Laurie Krahn

10-Mary File, Cary Mannaberg

11-Marya Barbee, David Fast

16-Elliot Loftus, Seth Vincent

17-Sarita Mannaberg

18-Michael Martin, Richard Ward

20-Drew Lewis

22-Dick Northrop

26-Grace Jacobs, Pat Miner, Tom Kooiker



Snakes and Alms

The readings from the Fourth Sunday in Lent —

Numbers 21:4-9 and John 3:14-21 — concern snakes. We read in Numbers: “Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.” Why would the Lord send snakes into the camp?

From the very beginning, when God’s first people were camping out in a garden called Eden, God brought in a snake. That first snake bit Adam and Eve with poisonous lies: “But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of [the fruit of the tree in the midst of the garden] your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”” And even though God protected them, instructing them not to eat of the fruit of that tree, Adam and Eve ate and were poisoned by disobedience, shame, and separation.

And at Mount Horab, the Israelites must go far out of their way because the Edomites refused them passage. In fact, to go around the Edomites, they had to turn back towards the wilderness and away from Canaan. This was obviously discouraging. Impatience and ingratitude sets in among the people, and they begin to spit the poisonous venom of impatience and ingratitude against God and Moses. “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” God had brought Israel out of slavery in Egypt, led them by a pillar of cloud and fire, brought them safely through the sea, given them the law, provided them with manna. And the people responded with impatience and ingratitude. “Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.” Why would the Lord send snakes into the camp? To paraphrase John the Baptist—and Jesus, God’s people had become a “brood of vipers.” The camp had become the home of snakes.

And when the people found themselves surrounded by snakes, and, I suspect, when the people realized the snakes they’d become, sputtering the poisonous venom of impatience and ingratitude against God and Moses, the people came to Moses and said,

“We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” And Moses did. And it was so. And the people lived.

And speaking to Nicodemus, Jesus compared himself to that snake. “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,” Jesus says, “so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” Yes, while God sent the snakes into the camp to condemn, God sent Jesus into the world to save. Jesus says, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” And so we look on Jesus and live.

Friends in Christ, the poisonous snakes are still with us. We can name them: injustice, inequality, discrimination, addiction, violence, and poverty. The list goes on. And behind them all lurks the biggest snake of all. The Bible calls this snake mammon. We know it simply as money. Like the serpent in the Garden of Eden, this snake deceives us, saying, “If you have enough money, you can be like God.” You won’t need God. You can determine right and wrong, good and evil.

And if we don’t have enough money—And who does?—this snake poisons us with impatience and ingratitude, just like Israel. This snake tempts us with all that we want and need to be safe, and happy and whole. Even worse, this snake scares us with the money we need and what happens when we don’t have it. And despite all the ways God has provided for us, all the ways God has protected us, all the ways God has blessed us, we find ourselves grumbling, whining, and complaining. “Why have you brought us out to die?

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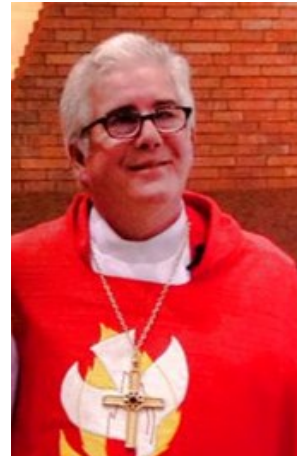
And God lifts Jesus up on a cross to counter money's poisonous venom with the healing, life-giving salve of God's grace. When money says, "You will be like God." Christ proclaims, "No, you are God's cherished, beloved children." If you want to see what you are worth to God, look at the cross. See beyond the images and inscriptions that Money places upon us. See beyond the ways that Money defines us—we are what we have; we are what we wear; we are what we do. See yourself instead as God sees you—created in God's image, joined to Christ's cross and resurrection, forgiven for Christ's sake, free to live as an image of Christ and not a servant of Money.

Yes, I know. You have bills to pay. So do I. So that snake will still tempt and try to define us. But in Christ we can resist. In Christ we can resist. Not only can we look to the cross, we can bring some of our money and leave it there, as a way of saying that we give God our love. We give God our trust. We give God our heart.

Giving away money to do God's work—we call it almsgiving in Lent—is a way that we trust and proclaim that we belong to God and not to our money. Giving away money is a faith practice by which we Christians publicly declare our loyalty to the living God, rather than buying and selling our dollars and cents. Giving money away is a concrete means of living into the new life accomplished in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection by participating in God's work of freeing, reconciling, and recreating. Giving away money is a way we render money a little less powerful by freeing ourselves—and all people—from its control, because giving money away transforms money into a sign of grace—a bronze serpent rather than a poisonous snake.

So how much money can you give away for God's work as a sign that you belong to God? Take the money you must have off the table—things like taxes, mortgage, rent, groceries, medical bills, and providing for your kids. The question remains: What will you do with the rest? Can you give some—a little more—away for the work of God's kingdom as an indication, proclamation, and a celebration that you belong to God? Could you give a little more money to your congregation? I hope you can. I think you should. But, as you do, ask your congregation what I am asking you: Can we give more of our money away for the work of God's kingdom, perhaps through our synod, to indicate, proclaim and celebrate that our congregation is not a snake pit. We do not belong to Money. Can we give a bit of our money away so that our neighbors and the world know that, at this congregation, we belong to God?

The Rev. Craig A. Satterlee, Ph.D., Bishop



"No one else holds, or has held, the place in the heart of the world which Jesus holds. Other gods have been as devoutly worshipped; no other man has been so devoutly loved."

—John Knox



Palm Sunday - March 29 -

8:00 am and 10:30 am services

Maundy Thursday - April 2 - 7:00pm Service

Good Friday - April 3 - 7:00pm Service



EASTER SUNDAY

April 5 - 8:00 am Service

9:15 Potluck Breakfast and Festivities

10:30 am Service

HOPE'S 2015 CHURCH DIRECTORY

Pictures for the 2015 Church Directory can be submitted in the following ways:



- Send a picture to Keith.Gage@perrigo.com
- Turn in a picture to Keith Gage to have it scanned in
- Have your picture taken between services on Easter Sunday (April 5th)

All pictures are due by April 5th. If you have any corrections or changes from last year's directory, please write them down in the "Corrections Directory" located in the Narthex.



PRACTICING PRESENCE

In Richard Foster's book, *Celebrations of Disciples*, he discusses the practice of solitude. Loneliness vs. Solitude can be seen like this: Loneliness is inner emptiness. Solitude is inner fulfillment.

Solitude is more a state of mind and heart than it is a place. There is a solitude of the heart than can be maintained at all times. Crowds, or the lack of them, have little to do with this inward attentiveness.

If we possess inward solitude: We do not fear being alone, for we know that we are not alone. Neither do we fear being with others, for they do not control us.

Join us for a time of **Practicing Presence** in our prayer life and in our lives with others.

We will meet on Wednesdays from
12:00 – 2:00 – April 15 – May 27.



The Welcoming Prayer Practice: Focus, Welcome, Let go

Focus, feel and sink into what you are experiencing this moment in your body.

Welcome what you are experiencing this moment in your body as an opportunity to consent to the Divine Indwelling. Saying, "Welcome, Holy Divine Indwelling."

Let go by repeating the following sentences:

"I let go of the desire for security, affection, control."

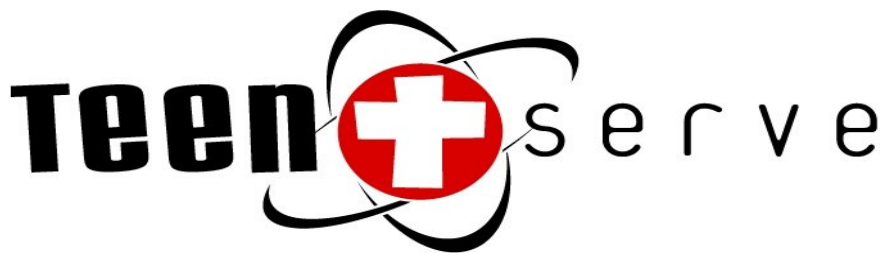
"I let go of the desire to change what I am experiencing."

TEEN SERVE IS COMING TO PLAINWELL!

Teen Serve is coming to Plainwell June 21-27th, and they need your help!

What it is: Every year, teens from across the country go on mission trips to other cities to paint and repair houses for those who cannot otherwise afford it. This year, thanks to the hard work of many in the community, Plainwell and the surrounding area has been chosen as one of the sites.

300+ teens will be coming here and living in the Middle School for a week. The teens must be entering 8th grade or above in the fall. During that time, they will paint and repair 100-150 homes within a 25-mile radius of the middle school. They pay for this "privilege" of working hard for five days in Christ's name.



COMING TO PLAINWELL, MICHIGAN JUNE 21—27, 2015 !

After what could have been my last of seven TeenServe mission trips I can't be thankful enough for what God has done for me through these years. TeenServe was where I gave my life to Christ and chose to trust Him at all times. I've met some incredible people who I will call friends for life. TeenServe has impacted my life tremendously and I am blessed to have been a part of it." Ryan, New London, Wisconsin

EDUCATION

WE CELEBRATE YOUR SUPPORT!

Watching people stream in to the spaghetti dinner and silent auction, one of our senior high youth remarked that she had always felt the welcome and support of this congregation in all her years here.

That love and support allowed us to raise over \$1700 for spiritual growth activities for our youth this summer. That will be increased by a \$1000 matching funds grant from Thrivent Financial, making our total over \$2700!!

Our youth will be involved in three types of activities: confirmation and senior high camp at Stony Lake, attendance at the National Youth Gathering in Detroit, and involvement in Teen Serve/Plainwell. Because Hope has already donated support for the camp, we decided to divide our tithe of what we earned between Teen Serve/Plainwell and the offerings for the youth gathering, which will go toward helping people in Detroit.

Special thanks to Jon Schultz, Tammy Gage, Bill Vance and Marne Sieber, who put in time above and beyond the call of duty!

And a big thank you to you, members of Hope, for welcoming, loving and supporting our kids!!



**Thank
You**

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS!

Our Sunday school children made their goal! They brought in enough offerings to buy a sheep for Heifer International. The children were encouraged to do chores at home to earn their offerings.

As a reward, Sunday school families will have lunch and then travel to a sheep farm in Allegan County on Sunday, April 12, after late worship. Dr. Heather Ludlam, our host, has promised that there will be lots of baby lambs to hold!

Parents – your RSVP slips must be to Pat Vance by Easter Sunday, or you can email your RSVP to her at pat@vance.com



LOOKING FORWARD ...

Kenna Sieber will be confirmed on June 7th.



Summer will bring a new series of events – the Hope Happenings. There will be four of these, one each in June, July, August and September. All but July's will be intergenerational and held here at the church after Sunday worship. Exact dates and more details will be in the May newsletter. We're excited about these, and hope you will be, too!

KUDOS TO

- Rachel Kellogg for making the dean's list at WMU.
- Nick Kellogg for his acceptance into Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Let's keep Nick in our prayers as he goes through the process of finding housing and financial aid for his fall entry into seminary.



DID YOU KNOW?

The youth fundraiser was the last time we will receive matching fund grants from Thrivent Financial. You are invited to stay after church on Sunday, April 19th to learn about the new Thrivent programs for helping churches raise money. See details on the next page. Please plan on attending.



NEWS FROM THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS

PLEASE JOIN ME!

I'm hosting a coffee Hour and would love for you to join me. Hosted by Thrivent Financial representative Philip L. Maass, CFP, CLU, FIC.

Date: Sunday, April 19, 2015

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Place: Hope Lutheran Church

290 12th St.

Plainwell, MI 49080

COFFEE HOUR

EVENT DETAILS:

There will be a brief discussion on Thrivent Choice Dollars, Thrivent Action Teams and End of Chapter Systems.

Coffee will be served.



Drop by at your convenience.

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER, CFP (with plaque design) and CFP (with flame design) in the U.S., which it awards to individuals who successfully complete CFP Board's initial and ongoing certification requirements.

No Products will be sold at this event.

Insurance products issued or offered by Thrivent Finance, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, WI. Not all products are available in all states. Securities and investment advisory services are offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55415, a FINRA and SIPC member and a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent. Thrivent Financial representatives are registered representatives of Thrivent Investment Management Inc. They are also licensed insurance agents/producers of Thrivent.

For additional important information, visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.

OUTREACH & MISSION

HANDS2HANDS

Hands 2 Hands is beginning its fourth year. The community is responding to our pleas for physical and financial support. Of course, we plan our future on donations of food items, volunteer help, money contributions, and prayer.



It is a joy to see this Hands 2 Hands plan feed many hungry children.

CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS NEWS

Hope Lutheran's APRIL Assignment: LAUNDRY AND DISH SOAP

Christian Neighbors Executive Director Terri Shaler reports that a Veteran Service Officer is available at their 12th Street location on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month, from 10 to noon. No appointment is necessary. And thank you Veterans, for your service.

Seniors: Medicare and Medicaid Counselors are also available for help with Prescription Drug Coverage and Medigap Plans. Call for a free appointment Mondays from 10-12.



Each client receives a dozen eggs with their food boxes. Christian Neighbors is in need of egg cartons that hold 1 dozen eggs to repackage bulk eggs.

Terri Shaler, Executive Director

Christian Neighbors, PO Box 53, 282 12th Street, Plainwell, MI 49080

Telephone 269-685-4166 Fax 269-685-4178

tshaler@christianneighbors.org



SYLVIA'S PLACE

Allegan County's Domestic Violence
Safe House and Supportive Services
www.sylviasplace.com



Here's a list of current needs to be collected at church:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| *Paper Towels | *toilet paper | *disinfectant wipes |
| *AA Batteries | *Prepaid gasoline cards | *Purex 3 In One Detergent |
| * Handwashing Liquid Soap | *Dishwashing Detergent | |
- Place items in basket in foyer marked Sylvia's Place

The Noisy Offering collected on the **FIRST** Sunday of the Month is split equally between Christian Neighbors and Sylvia's Place. Please remember to give generously.

EVERYONE DESERVES A SAFE PLACE.

BRIDGES OF HOPE

Bridges of Hope Allegan County is nonprofit organization whose mission is to work to eliminate poverty in Allegan County. We seek to help individuals in poverty rise above their circumstances, especially those in generational poverty, and educate community members about barriers in the community that perpetuate poverty.

We offer a 16-week “*Getting Ahead*” program which is designed to help people build their own path to a good-paying job, stable housing, and the ability to save for a rainy day.

How can you help? We are looking for people to partner with us by donating \$25.00 which will be used to purchase **Supply Bags** for our participants which will contain the following: Calculator, Spiral notebook, pen, pencil and the *Getting Ahead* workbook.

Yes! I want to help! Enclosed you will find my \$25.00 which is to be used for Supply Bags for the participants of “*Getting Ahead*” program!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



Make checks payable to Bridges of Hope and mail to: 290 12th Street, Plainwell, MI 49080. If you are interested in discovering additional ways you can join with **Bridges of Hope** to empower people within our community, please include your phone number. Thank you!!!

CO-WORKERS IN THE GOSPEL

Co-workers in the Gospel

A Workshop for Congregation Leaders

“...they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with...the rest of my co-workers...” (Philippians 4:3)

Location: St. Luke’s Lutheran Church

3215 Four Mile Road NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Saturday, April 25, 2015 10am – 3pm

(Note: this workshop will be held again in the fall in the northern part of the synod.)

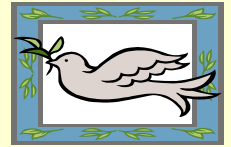
Cost: \$10 per person (includes lunch)

Designed for congregation council and other leaders, this workshop will feature speakers, discussion, and idea-sharing with other leaders on leadership, synod resources, boundaries, your church building as a mission, and topics for treasurers.



MONTHLY ATTENDANCE & GIVING

DATE	ATTENDANCE 8:00	ATTENDANCE 10:30	ATTENDANCE TOTALS	OFFERING
Sun, March 1	10	52	62	\$1,578.31
Sun, March 8	69	63	72	\$ 2,718.25
Sun, March 15	7	50	57	\$ 1,206.85
Sun, March 22	6	71	77	\$ 3,613.75
Wednesdays In Lent	Feb. 25 - 19 Mar. 11 - 18 Mar. 18 - 15 Mar. 25 - 19			

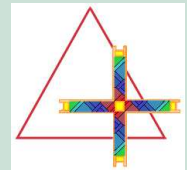


*PRAISE GOD FROM
WHOM ALL
BLESSINGS
FLOW!*

HOPE'S SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

Sunday, April 26 following the 10:30 worship service.

PLEASE mark your calendar for this date.



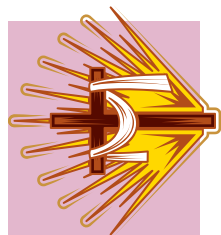
FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH First United Methodist Church Plainwell
EVERY THURSDAY 11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Fellowship Hall - Basement Parking Lot Entrance-Elevator/Stairs
200 Park Street Corner Chart & Part Street Plainwell, MI 49080
"When I was hungry, you gave me food." Matthew 25:35







APRIL 2015



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	2 7 pm MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE	3 Office Closed 11 am Bible Study At Diana's Care 7 pm GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	4
5 EASTER SUNDAY 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Break- fast & Festivities 10:30 am Wor-	6 Office Closed	7 7 am Men's Bible 8 am Men's Break- fast 9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Daisy Scouts	8 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10 Office Closed 11 am Bible Study At Diana's Care	11
12 2nd Sun. of Easter 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Education 10:30 am Worship	13 Office Closed	14 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Bible Study 4 pm Worship/Music 5:30 pm Daisy Scouts 6:30 pm Council	15 12 - 2 pm Practicing Presence 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17 Office Closed 11 am Bible Study At Diana's Care	18
19 3rd Sun. of Easter EARTH/ARBOR DAY 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Education 10:30 am Worship 11:45 Thrivent Seminar	20 Office Closed 	21 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Daisy Scouts	22 12 - 2 pm Practicing Presence 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	23 10:30 am Women's Bible Study Newsletter Deadline	24 Office Closed 11 am Bible Study At Diana's Care	25
26 4th Sun. of Easter 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Education 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Semi- Annual Meeting & Potluck	27 Office Closed	28 7:30 am Men's Break- fast 9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Daisy Scouts 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	29 12 - 2 pm Practicing Presence 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	30 Publish Newsletter		

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Address Correction Requested

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The Rev. Kari Fast - Pastor

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Louise McCallum - Church Secretary &
Newsletter Editor

Dennis Vincent - Custodian

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Vice-President - Bob Spagnoli

Secretary - Cheryl Klein

Treasurer - Bill Vance

Council-At-Large

Dick Koch

Patrick Moore

Louise Adams

Richard Ward

Marne Sieber

Laura Moore



Highlights from the March Council Meeting:

- Synod Assembly will be held May 17 - 19 in Lansing. We send Pastor Kari and two voting members — a man and a woman.
- The Sunday School visit to a sheep farm will be April 12.
- Watch for the Four Hope Happenings this summer. Intergenerational gatherings!
- Our youth will be very busy this summer—6 are going to camp, 1 is attending the National Youth Gathering, and 1 is volunteering with Teen Serve.
- Earth Arbor Day will be celebrated April 19 during the Sunday School hour. The plant exchange will be held in May.
- Philip Maass will hold a Thrivent Seminar April 19 after the 10:30 service.
- Synod will hold a Congregational Leader Event at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids April 25. All members are invited, registration is on the synod website: <http://www.mittensynod.org> Look under Events, Events Calendar, for: Co-Workers in the Gospel: A Workshop for Congregation Leaders.
- The Semi-Annual Meeting will be held April 26 after the 10:30 service.
- A new committee has been formed, the Investment Committee. If you are interested in serving on this committee, contact Bob Spagnoli or Bill Vance.
- Next meeting: April 14 at 6:30 P.M.



**HOPE LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Plainwell, Michigan