



P.C.A. Witness

(Preaching Christ Always)

Hold fast the confession of our Hope! - Hebrew 10:23

Days like these, hope may be hard to come by.

We are in our third week of quarantine, and only now are we beginning to see the effects that such a shut down over the fears of a virus spreading may have. The economic impact is only beginning, and we hear of those in our community who have lost their jobs or are currently furloughed and have no regular income. With every news report and paper, we hear only the bad news. With the schools closed, graduations and athletic aspirations are put on hold, and we're unsure what this means for their future. We are anxious, full of worry for our friends and family. We are scared to go out, tired of staying in, and all of this could go on for another month.

Hope is hard to find.

But it is here.

Throughout the New Testament, this word "hope" keeps coming back up. It's as if God knew that His people would need to be encouraged, to put their hope and trust in Him, so His word gives us a constant reminder to be people of great hope.

The author of Hebrews writes, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb 11:1). In Romans 8, Paul reminds us that "we hope for what we do not see." Hope is an expectation for that which we cannot have now, but is the deep longing of our hearts.

But hope is more than just wishful thinking. I hope I can eat an entire tub of ice cream without gaining weight... that is a fool's hope. It is not based in reality, it has no substance behind it, and such a hope will only lead to disappointment (and pants that don't fit).

Genuine hope is the conviction of faith that rests in the promises of God (Acts 26:6). We take God at His Word. What He promises to do is as good as done already, we can, with confidence, put our hope in Him. Hope is established, not on fanciful wishing, but on every promise of God's Word. He said it, and I place my hope upon it.

Hope is also built upon the history of God's provision. I can look through the history of God's dealing with His people and see that God is faithful to His Word. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 1:10, "He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him, we have set our hope that he will deliver us again."

Our hope is in the Gospel. It is the hope, the sure and certain conviction, that through Christ Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we have the promise of everlasting life. We have this hope, that He who has begun a good work is faithful to bring it to completion (Phil 1:6). We hope that as He has delivered us from evil, He will also continue to work within us His sanctifying grace, that we may grow more and more like His Son. We wait, patiently in hope, awaiting the coming righteousness (Gal 5:5) and going for the day of our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God.

Do not lose hope. Stay deeply rooted in God's Word, flood yourself with His promises for you in Jesus Christ, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God (Rom 5:2). The hope you have in God will never disappoint, will never lead you to shame (Rom 5:5).

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Ethan".

Ethan Sayler, Pastor ~ reveds@msn.com ~ 712-229-6842 Church phone: Ext 301

Judy De Wit, C.E. Director ~ educator.84@hotmail.com ~ 605-359-0034 Church phone: Ext 303

Brenda Sinning, Church Administrative Assistant - lepc@iw.net Church phone: Ext 302

Church Phone — 605-647-2659 Church Website — www.lennoxpca.org

If you are unable to attend the morning service, you may watch it on cable 19 or 98 or you may Livestream the service by going to the website and clicking the link.

April



Anniversaries

- 14 Phil & Judy Fett
- 15 Ron & Deb Hanssen
- 20 Jim & Gayla Wipf
- 24 Darryl & Joyce Williamson



Birthdays

- 1 Chris Hanssen
- 3 Jeremy Timmermans
- 6 Jerry Marts & Ainsley Calhoon
- 7 Lucas Steever
- 9 Wyatt Bult & Shawn Vannorsdel
- 11 Kathy Bunger & Bob Steadman
- 12 Austin Strasser
- 17 Jayden Hanisch & Chase Lundquist
- 19 Ethan Lundquist
- 22 Rhoda Strasser
- 23 David Pien
- 25 Donavon Bruns
- 26 Larry Bunjer, Alvin Haan, Mahli Strasser, & Monica Strasser
- 27 Ruth Poppens

*He is risen!
He is risen
indeed!*

DEACON'S UPDATE

Encouraging Generosity

Even though the church cannot come together for worship on Sunday or activities through the week, ministry continues, and so does our need for your support. We prayerfully encourage you to continue to contribute to the mission and ministry of Lennox Ebenezer as you are able.

In order to encourage giving, we have made arrangements for a variety of ways to contribute. Please consider the following options:

- ◆ You can bring your offering by to the church office.
- ◆ You can drop your offering in the contribution box across from the Pastor's Study. This was originally used for the Building Fund offerings, but your weekly or monthly offerings can be deposited there now.
- ◆ You can always mail your offering to the church at PO Box 632, Lennox, SD 57039.
- ◆ You can set up a direct deposit with your bank. Please contact Brenda Sinning for more information.
- ◆ We are working to set up online giving, which will be available on the church website and in the weekly Church emails. This will be a secure and confidential giving platform for one time gifts and repeated scheduled giving.

Keep watching for more information.



Christian Education News

All Sunday School classes are cancelled for the month of April.

Children's Sunday School

Each Sunday, Pastor Saylor will post a video on the Church Facebook page of the main story for that week's Sunday School. There will be a link to the teacher's guides for the lesson for the day, so that you can work through the material with our children. If you do not have a copy of the Gospel Story Bible & the daily family devotional based on the Sunday School curriculum, please contact the church office

and we'll provide you with a copy.

Discipleship Explored

The videos for the series are available on YouTube. Please feel free to stop at the church and pickup a study book for the series (available out on the information table in the narthex) to follow along with the videos for the remainder of the study.

Wednesday Evening Activities

At this time, all of our Wednesday evening mid-week activities are cancelled through the end of April. Please watch for any announcements regarding the Graduation Banquet.

Rise with the Guys and the Women's Bible Study Groups will not be meeting in April.

S.S. Mission project

The amount given for the Alpha Center's Baby Closet was \$426.64. Items will be purchased and then taken to the center along with those that were brought to the church.

The second quarter S.S. mission project is Bibles for Children through Voice of the Martyrs, along with our support of our Compassion child Ives, who lives in Togo. His support is \$38 per month.

MISSION NEWS



Ethan Zimmerman ~ Navigators ~ Auckland, New Zealand

It's been a joy to be back and I am excited to continue watching the LORD at work in the months to come. While I was in the US, Tim is the only student I met with over the past year who continued to initiate conversation while I was away. A couple days after arriving in Auckland, Tim and I met and spent some wonderful time in fellowship. I was delighted to hear he had put some effort into reading the Bible *on his own* while I was away, and how he was learning some really great things about who God is and what that means for Tim, as a growing disciple of Christ Jesus. I look forward to continuing to come alongside and growing with Tim this year! Thank you for how you support and come alongside me! I, truly, could not be here to meet with guys like Tim if it weren't for your partnership and prayer in the advance of the gospel in New Zealand.

Bill & Susan Carr ~ Mokahum Ministry Center ~ Bemidji, MN

Like everyone else, the virus has caused us to change a lot of the ways that we do things. I was at a mission conference last month in TN (my wife's home church). I think that will be the last travel that I will be able to do for a while. I was set to attend the MTW West Coast mission conference in April to represent Indigenous Ministries of North/Mission to the World. I was going to meet with my team leaders there as well, but it has been cancelled.

Mokahum students that I have contact with are having their module taught by my old MTW boss via computer. All of my meetings right now are pretty much conducted by Zoom or else by phone.

Susan must speak to each of her second- grade students at the reservation school by phone every day. She must prepare student packets and go to her school about a couple of times a week. Only a skeleton crew is there, no students. When the teachers show up to work, they must call ahead and are restricted to certain areas within the school.

I am on crutches because of arthritis in my knee, but it doesn't affect my driving. So, we are weathering the storm.

Please pray that we will continue to be salt and light here in the time of restricted activity.

Chris & Josephine Hatch ~ Serge ~ London, England

Greetings from Chicago where the four members of the Hatch family are staying at home - just like many around the world! Rahel is working online and the remainder of Kaleb's semester at Calvin will be online. I am continuing my studies at Trinity online as well. During these days together, we are seeking to go for walks, enjoy family meals and have devotional times as a family as we seek to create a healthy new normal.

Please pray for Marcus, Oong and Gregory as they lead New City with online Bible studies and worship services over the coming weeks. These are difficult times for the leadership of Serge which has close to 300 people working outside the United States. Pray that Serge missionaries would have wisdom during these stressful times.

Brandon & Erin Haan ~ RUF ~ University of Minnesota

The vast majority of students are at their own homes and the U has made all classes online for the remainder of the semester. All our RUF stuff is happening online. We have a video chat platform through the university which allows us to continue our Bible studies and large group meetings virtually. So far, ministry has been really good since students have more time and are more willing to be in good conversations about their faith and about God. It has been a pleasant surprise to have ministry be as fruitful as it has been.

Erin has her treatments weekly on Wednesdays, but she wasn't able to have one on the 25th because she was running a slight fever. Thank you for your support and for your prayers. They are a great encouragement to us and we know that God hears us when we call.

HOPE IS HERE!

As we face these uncertain and difficult times, we want to relay the message that Hope Is Here in the church. We are challenged to remember that God is in control. Let us share this message of hope with one another, our families and our Lennox Community.

One way to encourage is through a scripture reminder in the windows of our church. Would you consider making a poster? If you are interested in joining this effort, see the one already posted in one of the North fellowship hall windows.

If you would like more information, a poster board already cut to size, a scripture passage, etc., please contact Gail Strasser at 321-6012 or email Gail at davegail@midco.net.

HOPE IS HERE!!

Officer Meetings

The Session will meet on Tuesday evening, April 14th, at 7:00 pm. The Deacons of Finance & Mercy met on Wednesday, April 1st. The Deacons of Building & Property are not meeting this month, but will continue to carry out the care of the building on an as-needed basis.

The Adult Choir will not be practicing again this spring. We will pick up our practices when school begins again in the fall.

Thank you all for sharing your talent, your faithfulness in attending practices and for praising God with your voices during the Sunday morning worship services. — Brenda

(An April calendar of events was not included in this month's newsletter due to all of April's church events being cancelled.)

UGM Update

Thank you to all who donated peanut butter & jelly for the March Love Gift for the Union Gospel Mission. The Auxiliary meeting was cancelled, but the items have been delivered to the Mission. Ebenezer was to host the April 17th meeting. It has been cancelled.

All volunteer opportunities at the UGM (including chapel participants) have been suspended until further notice. Their Thrift Store is also closed and receipt of all donations of clothing, household items, etc., have been suspended at this time.

Pray for the Mission staff, who will be stretched thin over the coming weeks without volunteer help. Pray for their guests too, many of whom have chronic health issues that make them especially vulnerable to illness.

"Preaching Christ Always"

305 West 1st Avenue Box 632
Lennox, SD 57039

LENNOX
EBENEZER
PRESBYTERIAN

The stated meeting of the session of Lennox Ebenezer Presbyterian Church was convened by Pastor Sayler on March 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the conference room. Gene Valentien opened the meeting with devotions on Colossians 4:5-7 and prayer.

Those present were Pastor Sayler, Marlyn Bunger, Gene Valentien, Jim Wipf, and Bob Steadman. A quorum was present.

MSA the minutes of the February 11, 2020 stated meeting as corrected.

Church statistics:

Communion was served to 124 on March 1, 2020.

Marlyn Bunger prayed for the work of the Deacons.

Church committees:

Church use: Gene Valentien reported on requests to use the church building.

Christian Ed: Jim Wipf presented the schedule and updates on the Christian Ed Banquet. The material for VBS is being ordered.

Missions: Paul & Liz Meiners will be our speakers for our Mission Emphasis Day in October. A possible change in the budget is being readied as Ross & Ellen Errington are retiring as missionaries in June. A couple from our presbytery is seeking support to serve with the PCA in Cambodia. They are being invited to speak at Ebenezer possibly in April.

Worship & Music: Discussion on Holy Week services resulted in the decision to pursue for 2021 a series of Sunday Evening Services leading up to Easter in which local reformed ministers would be invited to preach, with the possibility of meeting in different community churches each week.

MSA that the Session put forth on the Sunday before the celebration of the Lord's Supper a reminder to communing members of the standards of self-examination in preparation for the Sacrament, and set aside a day of prayer and fasting during the week before the Lord's Supper.

Jim Wipf prayed for the committees.

Pastor Sayler gave his report. He participated in an online interview with a possible pastor for a church plant in St Cloud, MN. Pastor Sayler is temporarily filling in as the teacher for the 7th & 8th grade S.S. class and continues with the communicants' class for this age group. He is beginning a discipleship class for men that will meet twice a month on Tuesdays.

Pastor Sayler shared a summary of the Called Meeting of Siouxlands Presbytery on March 6, in which the Presbytery voted to create an Interim Session to oversee the ministry of CityLife Church, St. Paul, MN.

As recommended by the Judicial Commission at the 118th meeting of the Siouxlands Presbytery, the Session reviewed the Report of the Ad-Interim Committee on Divorce and Remarriage.

The Session discussed health concerns regarding the spread of Covid19 (Coronavirus) and what changes, if necessary, should be implemented. No action was taken, but we encourage members to consider their health, and that of others, before coming together.

The request for Ebenezer to be part of the L.O.V.E. INC ministry in the Lennox community was taken off the table from the February session meeting. MSA for Ebenezer to be part of this ministry and for Pastor Sayler to sign the necessary form.

The next stated meeting will be on April 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Prayer concerns were shared.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Bob Steadman and Pastor Sayler at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Bunger, clerk

Deacons Meeting Minutes

The Deacons of Mercy & Finance and Building & Property was convened on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 7:30 pm, in the church conference room.

Deacons of Mercy & Finance present were: Jim Kickland, Dave Strasser, John Mossefin, Ken Shaffer, Adam Aesoph and Ryan Strege. Excused were Jeff Rippentrop and Aaron Bartscher.

Deacons of Building & Property present were: Pat Miller, Mike Covais, Justin Carlson, Andrew Haan, Randy Dump, Bryce Strasser and Billy Welch. Excused: Jason Haan. Brenda Sinning, Treasurer, and Pastor Sayler were also present.

Dave Strasser led devotions from James 4:13-17 and Our Daily Bread.

Brenda presented the financial statements for February and a corrected January statement. Following this, Brenda left the meeting.

Pat Miller discussed the possible change of the regular meeting night for the Deacons. This was tabled.

At this time, the Deacons of Building & Property left the room to hold their meeting.

The Deacons fund balance is \$7,546.07.

A memorial gift was received in memory of Elaine Swegheimer. MSA to designate it to the Camp Fund.

The offering on the third Sunday in March is designated for the Deacons Fund.

The Deacons approved a free will offering for fellowship time, three times a year, to help with the expenses for it.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Ryan Strege.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Shaffer, Acting Secretary

Deacons of Building & Property

We are working on setting a day aside to meet and rearrange the storage room next to the MPR.

A missing ceiling tile was replaced by the west doorway.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Carlson, Secretary

Taste and See That the Lord is Good

Apple Cream Pie

Mina Poppens

- 2 1/2 - 3 cups peeled, cubed or diced apples
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 2 Tablespoons flour (heaping)
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup heavy cream

Mix together the above ingredients and put in your favorite 9 inch unbaked pie crust. Bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes.

Topping

Mix together while the above is baking:

- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 cup softened butter

Remove the pie from oven after baking for 45 minutes and add the topping. Then return to the oven and bake for another 15 minutes, watching carefully so it doesn't over brown.

This can be served hot or cold and is great with ice cream or whipped topping. This is a favorite Mina enjoys making with fresh apples, but this can also be made with fresh peeled peaches or frozen apples too (if using frozen, drain excess juice.) This is oh so good!!! This pie freezes well, so it can be made ahead.

Food for Thought

Remember, though we struggle against things because we are afraid of them, it is often the other way round—we get afraid because we struggle. Are you struggling, resisting? Don't you think our Lord says to you, "Peace, child, peace. Relax. Let go. Underneath are the everlasting arms. Let go, I will catch you. Do you trust me that little?" C. S. Lewis

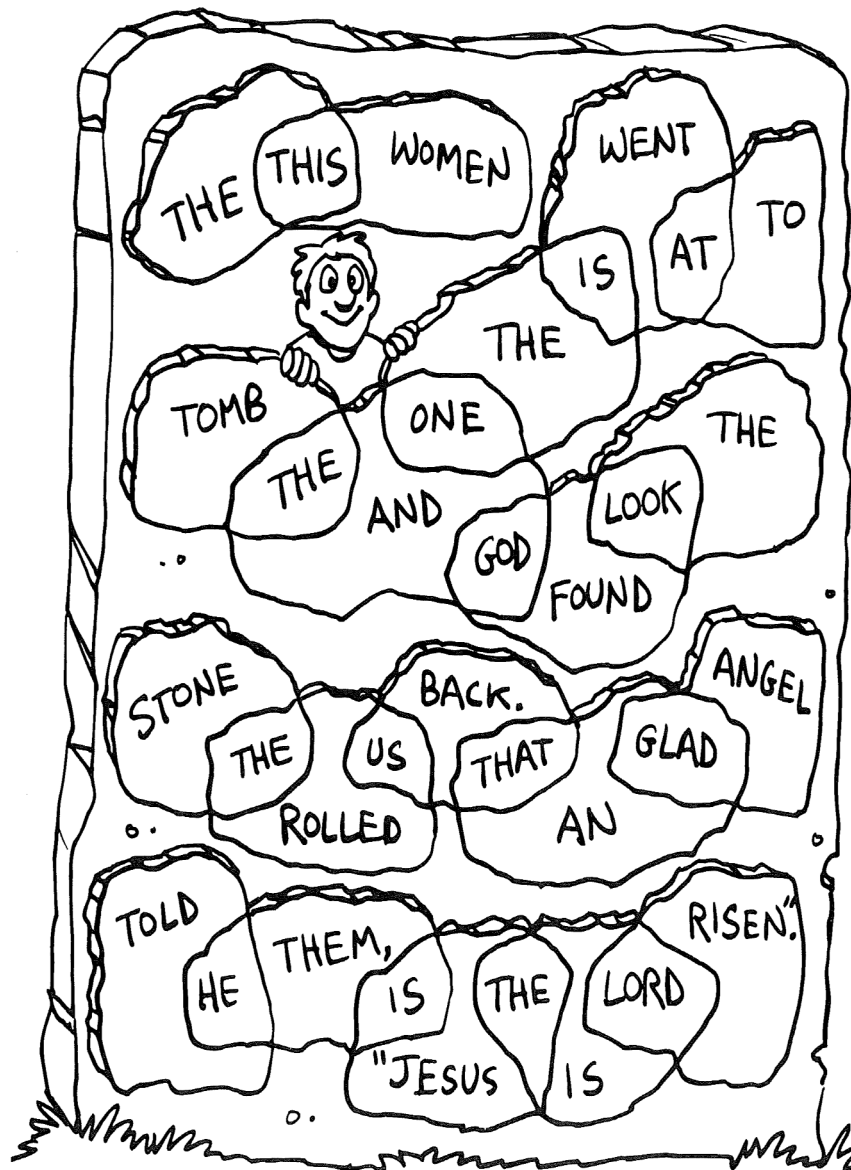
"There is none like God, O Jeshurun, who rides through the heavens to your help, through the skies in his majesty. The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms."

Deuteronomy 33:26-27

Kids Korner

See the Stone?

Read Matthew 28:1-10. A message from Matthew 28:1-10 is hidden in the stones of this puzzle. Color all the spaces where the stones overlap, then read the uncolored words to find the message.





Christian Education Director's Column



April 5 #39 (Matt. 27:62-28:16)

Explain what fainting is and what can cause someone to faint. Share how the men guarding Jesus' tomb were shocked at what happened when Jesus rose from the grave. So shocked, they fainted.

April 12 Easter Sunday—No lesson today.

April 19 #40 (John 20:19-31)

With your child, show where the nail prints were on Jesus' hands and talk about the pain of being hung on a cross by your hands. Share with one another what it means to have faith that Christ did this for you and me.

April 26 #41 (John 21:1 – 15)

Share with your child about going from 0 fish to 153 fish in a matter of minutes. Remind your child how Christ is Lord of Creation and that he can calm storms, cause fish to be caught when there were none in the sea all night and heal the sick. How is He Lord of Creation for us?

Mission Update from Rick Box... I have decided that I am officially resigning/retiring from Mission to the World and Third Millennium Ministries, effective April 1, 2020. I have been praying for some time about this and the decision was not an easy one. As you know, the recent past, with the loss of my wife, has been difficult and trying. Since Pam's cancer diagnosis, we have been living in Texas and ministering with MTW on loan to Third Millennium Ministries.

One thing that I have realized is that I most enjoy ministering to and with people that I am regularly and personally in contact with as I did while living in Colombia and Mexico. I am currently teaching three adult bible studies, two men's groups, and mentoring two men. These new opportunities are in my neighborhood and through my home church. I am finding this extremely fulfilling.

Thank you so much for your years of prayer, encouragement, and support for Pam and me, and the ministries that we have been so blessed to be a part of. As I enter this new phase of life and ministry, I ask for you to continue in prayer for me. Please know that I will continue to pray for you. **Rick Box**



*He Lives! He Lives! Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with and talks with me along life's narrow way.*

He Lives, He Lives, Salvation to impart!

You ask me how I know he lives?

HE LIVES WITHIN MY HEART!