

### **Call Committee Update and Invitation**

The call committee has been working with the Synod and the potential new pastor on the details of the call. It is time for the congregation to once again participate actively in the process. Please note the following opportunities for your participation:

#### **Open House Meet-n-Greet**

On Saturday, April 23, from noon to 2 p.m. at the church, you will have the chance to meet and talk with the pastor considering a call to this congregation. This will be an open house with light refreshments; you are invited to stop by anytime during those two hours to meet our next potential pastor. Please bring the entire family if you wish for this important opportunity.

#### **Semi-annual Congregation Meeting**

On Sunday, April 24, following worship, we will hold our semi-annual congregation meeting. While the agenda is still being finalized by the Council, one of the items included will be a vote on whether to call the pastor who has been interviewed by the committee and who was introduced at the open house on April 23. This will also include a vote on the compensation package and budget to enable the call. You must be a member and present at the meeting to vote; no absentee, proxy, or online voting will occur. If you have questions about the call process or either of the events mentioned above, please contact Marne or Brian.

### **CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS SOUP SUPPER—APRIL 20 from 5-7 p.m.**

The date is coming closer for the postponed CN Soup Supper at Hope. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside of the kitchen. We need YOU!

- ⇒ People are needed to make/donate soup, bread, Jell-O salads and cookies.
- ⇒ Help will be needed after worship on Easter Sunday to set up the tables and chairs.
- ⇒ We will need all hands on-deck that day and night to set up, serve and clean up.

This is a great event and a wonderful opportunity to support Christian Neighbors and the work they do in our community. With rising gas and food prices, the services they provide will be needed even more by our neighbors and friends. Please mark your calendars now to both support and attend this event. Dine-in and take-out will be available. Tell all your neighbors to come and have some soup!



### **Council Highlights—March 8 Meeting**

- ◆ As of Sunday, March 13, masks will be optional.
- ◆ There are new signs on the Restrooms. When you enter, flip the sign to “Occupied” and when you leave, flip the sign to “Vacant.”
- ◆ Christian Neighbors Soup Supper will be held April 20.
- ◆ Our February Spotlight was Hats, Mittens, Gloves, and Scarves. Items donated are being saved to donate to the Plainwell Volunteer Christmas Project.
- ◆ Our March Spotlight is Good Hands Plainwell.
- ◆ Our April Spotlight will be Sylvia’s Place.
- ◆ Synod Assembly will be a one-day virtual business meeting on Saturday, May 14. We will need one man and one woman as delegates.
- ◆ Next Meeting—Tuesday, April 12 at 6 p.m. in the Education Room.

## Bishop's Newsletter for North/West Lower Michigan Synod

Proclaiming Christ and prayerfully participating in Jesus' own work of reconciling the world to God's very self!

Address: 2900 N. Waverly Road, Lansing MI 48906 Phone: 517-321-5066 email: [bishopcraigsatterlee@mittensynod.org](mailto:bishopcraigsatterlee@mittensynod.org)

### Bread for the Journey

I believe most church leaders felt like Elijah the prophet sometime in these past two years. Elijah did as God commanded and defeated the prophets of Baal. But rather than repentance, King Ahab and Queen Jezebel sent a message to Elijah threatening to kill him by this time tomorrow. And Elijah found himself fleeing for his life. And similarly, many church leaders resisted the prophets of division, politicization, and immediate gratification to keep God's people safe from COVID-19 and have found themselves fleeing for their spiritual, professional, and relational, if not their physical, lives.

"[Elijah] himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God" (1 Kings 19:4-8).

My hope as I begin to plan our Synod Assembly is that we can find ways to be angels for one another during those times when we are in a wilderness place, sitting under a solitary broom tree, asking to die rather than to face one more day of a conflicted church and ministry.

The patristic scholar and sacramental theologian in me sees baptism and Eucharist in the bread and water the angel serves Elijah. Sitting under my solitary broom tree, I long for something more. In John's Gospel, Jesus calls himself the bread of life and says that he will give living water (6:25-59; 7:37-39). So let the bread and water that the angel served Elijah be nothing other than Jesus himself for us. My prayer is that we will be able to go from the Assembly "in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God."

So 1 Kings 19:8 is the theme of our no longer than six-hour virtual assembly. We will elect members to the Consultation Committee and Synod Council. We will consider resolutions. We will vote on compensation guidelines and a budget. And I expect angels to serve up Jesus so that, in his strength, we might continue our journey to the mountain of God. I have some hunches on how this might happen. If you have hunches, please send them my way. I cannot guarantee we will implement them but we will prayerfully consider them.

Fleeing for our lives to the mountain of God in the strength of Christ sounds to me like the journey of faith. We cannot change the journey. But we can strive to make sure there are angels nearby when people seek escape under a broom tree. Second only to praying that the internet does not go down, this is my prayer for our assembly. The peace of Christ be with you!

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





**Phyllis Wigg**

**Dick & Louise Adams**

**Shari Hales** (Pat Vance's niece)

**Sherry Dodes** (Sandy Fletcher's sister)

**Jacob DeRyke** (serving overseas, grandson of Mary DeRyke)

**Bill Vance** (continuing issues)

**Jeanne Spagnoli**

**Coronavirus pandemic** (all those affected)

**Dick and Pauline Northrop**

**Laura Frost** (undiagnosed severe illness, Chuck and Nancy Gregory's lovely neighbor)

**Jane Perry** (healing for cancer, friend of Nancy Gregory)

**Shirley & Maury Thompson** (Shirley now on oral meds for cancer)

**Sue & Bob Daniels** (Sue, continued healing; Bob, recovery so he can return to work)

**Kate Crans** (Tammy Gage's Mom, kidney dialysis)

**Richard Ward** (recovery from open heart surgery April 6)

**Roxy Reed** (lung surgery April 12)

**Johann Northrop** (multiple sclerosis/therapy; Covid recovery)

**Alicia Meiaurer** (healing and adjustment following leg amputation, friend of the Thompson family)

**Jerry LaLiberte'** (recovery and healing)

**Margareta** (friend of Sigrid LaLiberte'; hospitalized with Covid)

**Rev. David Lowder** (former pastor at St. Stephens; final stages of ALS)

**Michael** (son of Pauline Northrup; recovery from emergency surgery)

**Dan Curtiss** (friend of Maury & Shirley Thompson; health concerns)

**Bill Crane** (husband of Karen Crane; recovery from Covid)

**LeeAnn Riley** (friend of Rick File)

**Family of Cyndi Trobeck** (passed away March 14)

**Family of Amy Woodruff** (Dick & Diane Woodruff, parents; Amy passed away Feb. 27)

**Ukrainian people around the world**

#### **OUR SYNOD & ELCA LEADERS:**

Bishop Craig Satterlee, Assistants to the Bishop Pastors David Sprang and Roseanne Anderson. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AT HOPE**

**Prayer Chain** - this Prayer List is for Urgent or Special requests for prayer. This list is confidential.

**In Our Prayers List** - this list is for general or on-going needs for prayer. It is published in the eBlasts, worship bulletins, and the Together Newsletter. They are also read out loud during worship.

**Tuesday Bible Study Prayer List** - The Tuesday Bible Study Group meets at Hope at 9:30 am and prays for various prayer requests.

### EARTH TIPS from Pat Vance



INFLATION!! It's definitely here, especially at the gas pump and in the grocery store. So let's talk about how to save money and help the environment at the same time.

First of all – that gas pump. This is the time to reform any bad driving habits you have picked up. Modern cars are designed to get maximum gas mileage between 50 and 55 mph. It's time to take back roads (without traffic lights) whenever possible, and drive 55. It's also time to stay back from the car ahead, and look forward, so you can slow down by removing your foot from the gas pedal instead of always using the brakes. If you must drive the highways, stay at 65-70 mph or lower. Every five miles you raise your speed, you lose 2-4 mpg in efficiency. And look ahead on the highways, too, for possible slow-downs that you can anticipate instead of putting on the brakes. If you coast to stoplights so that you end up with a rolling stop, you will save the gas it takes to get the car moving.

And while we're thinking about saving gas and the environment – we all picked up the habit of using the drive-through while restaurant dining rooms were closed. Now that dining rooms are open, think about not sitting there and running your car for five minutes- get out and go in to order!

In addition, pay attention to your car. Check the air in the tires; underinflated tires cost gas. Properly maintain the vehicle. Plan your routes in advance to avoid backtracking, and cluster errands. Did you know that UPS plans its drivers' routes to minimize left turns to they are not sitting idle waiting to turn so much?

Now let's tackle the grocery store. You've heard it all before, but here are the reminders: plan your meals so there is no waste; check the pantry before you plan, so you can use up what you have. Go with a list and don't impulse shop, but stay flexible in case you run into an unadvertised special. Look for the discount section at your store. Stretch your meals by including beans, chicken thighs, oats, peanut butter, rice, eggs and potatoes. Go meatless two or three days a week – inflation was more than 12% on meat this past year. Put that container for bits of leftovers in the freezer to make soup with when it's full. If you're roasting a chicken or buying one roasted, simmer the bones and extra skin and use the broth in your soups.

If you do the above, you will have lowered your carbon footprint, reduced waste that ends up in landfills, made positive moves toward abating climate change, and saved money!

### Pray for and Donate to Crisis in Ukraine

From the Mitten Synod website:

“We join with congregations across the ELCA and ecumenical partners around the world in praying for Ukraine, for peace, and for all creation.

Bishop Craig Satterlee invites you to join him in praying for Ukraine. [Watch Now.](#)

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, along with ecumenical and inter-religious partners, has issued an interfaith call to peace for Ukraine. [Read Now.](#)

Lutheran World Relief is collecting donations to support the people of Ukraine and provide emergency food, clean water, safe shelter, medical supplies, and more. This week, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod sent \$5,000 to Lutheran World Relief to assist families in Ukraine. Throughout the season of Lent, all donations made to the North/West Lower Michigan's Synod Disaster Relief Fund will be sent to Lutheran World Relief to assist families in Ukraine. [Donate Now.](#)

The Lutheran World Federation is accepting donations to support the churches and people of Ukraine, who are fleeing their homes and seeking shelter, basic necessities such as food and water, following Russia's military invasion of the country. [Learn More.](#)

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companion churches in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as the Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. [Donate Now.](#)”



<h2>April Birthdays</h2>	
4-Bill Vance, Laurie Krahn 10-Mary File, Cary Mannaberg 11-Marya Barbee 16-Elliot Loftus 18-Michael Martin, Richard Ward, Mary De Ryke 22-Dick Northrop 26-Grace Jacobs 29-Veronica Johnson	

<h2>May Birthdays</h2>	<h2>Happy Anniversary!</h2>
2-Sofia Barbee 7-Martha Emerson 8-Mark Babcock, Pearl Morse 10-Dianna Sherman 11-Stephanie Martin, Lisa Multer, Dawn Roblyer 12-John Multer 20-Norm McCallum 27-Nelson Multer 28-Alex Barbee	3-Dick & Pauline Northrop 14-Mark & Sandy Babcock 17-Richard & Irene Ward 19-Brent & Marya Barbee 19-Robert & Jennifer Loftus 24-Jon & Tammy Schultz 27-Chuck & Nancy Gregory

Please let us know if we have inadvertently left a birthday or anniversary off our list. We want to celebrate everyone's special day!

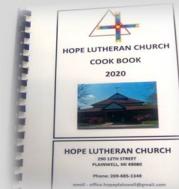
Sunday Morning Monthly Attendance			
DATE	IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE	LIVESTREAM ATTENDANCE	SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (Preschool - Adults)
Mar. 6			9
Mar. 13	15	16	8
Mar. 20	27	10	14
Mar. 27	28	12	15

Monthly Giving			
DATE	GENERAL GIVING	DESIGNATED GIVING	YEARLY AVERAGE OF WEEKLY GENERAL GIVING
Mar. 6	\$1,373.00	\$102.74	\$1,326.00
Mar. 13	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$1,237.00
Mar. 20	\$3,948.00	\$680.00	\$1,464.00
Mar. 27	\$673.00	\$2.95	\$1,402.00

We continue to receive our offering through cash, checks, mail, Simply Giving, and automatic deposits from members' banks deposited directly to Hope's account. Our offering will be counted and recorded weekly by designated counters; thank you!

### Hope Cookbook 2020

There are still lots of copies of the cookbook available! The cost is \$15; money from this fundraising project is dedicated to covering the cost of paving the parking lot. Recipes were submitted by Hope's members, friends, and relatives.





**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

290 12th Street  
Plainwell, MI 49080

Phone: 269-685-1348  
Office email: office.hopeplainwell@gmail.com  
Webpage: hopeplainwell.org  
Hope's Facebook page:  
Hope Lutheran, Plainwell, MI  
Hope's YouTube channel:  
Hope Lutheran Church, Plainwell, MI

Office Hours: Tuesday 10-noon; Wednesday & Thursday 9-noon

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.  
Worship: 10:30 a.m.

**Pastor**

Rev. Julie Winklepleck (Stated Supply)

**Staff**

Sue Daniels - Music & Media Coordinator  
Veronica Johnson - Interim Office Staff  
Dennis Vincent - Custodian



**2022 COUNCIL**

**Executive Board**

President, Marne Sieber  
Vice President, Veronica Johnson  
Treasurer, Fran Koehl  
Secretary, Cheryl Klein

**Council at Large**

Tammy Gage

<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>	<b>Pastoral Care</b>	<b>Mutual Ministry</b>	<b>Call Committee</b>
Judy Spiekermann Fran Koehl Veronica Johnson Judi Gage Sue Daniels	Pat Vance Sigrid LaLiberté Dianna Sherman Mitzi Henke Fran Koehl	Pauline Northrop Brian Roblyer Dianna Sherman Judy Spiekermann	Marne Sieber Judi Gage Brian Roblyer Dick Koch Fran Koehl Bill Vance Veronica Johnson

**Stewardship Message for April 2022**

Earth Arbor Day will be recognized on April 24. The Stewardship Committee has arranged with Chula Vista Garden Club to have a red maple seedling given out to each family.



**Join the Choir!**

The choir will be singing on Easter Sunday. Rehearsals will take place as follows:  
Wednesday, April 6 at 5 p.m. (30 minutes); Thursday, April 14 at 6:15 p.m. (30 minutes);  
Sunday, April 17 at 9:45 a.m. (30 minutes)  
No experience required - all are welcome to make a joyful noise!



**HOPE'S ITEMS FOR CHRISTIAN NEIGHBOR'S FOOD PANTRY**

Our items for March are Canned Tuna/Canned Chicken. Donations may be brought to the church and placed in the bin located in the entryway or at Christian Neighbors any time, but **best times to drop off at Christian Neighbors:** Monday 9-5, Tuesday 9-12 & 1-4, Thursday 9-5, Friday 9-12.