

Pastor's newsletter

Being an Emotional Faithful Disciple



“So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil.”- Ephesians 4:25-27 (NRSV translation)

Though I am a passionate Star Trek fan I also really enjoy Star Wars. I should probably specify that I exclusively enjoy the original Star Wars trilogy (New Hope, Empire Strikes Back, and Return of the Jedi). Growing up I enjoyed the story, I enjoyed the expansive world, the struggle of good and evil with good coming out victorious, and like most children pretending that a yardstick was really a lightsaber.

One of the most interesting things that Star Wars addresses is emotions and what to do with them. In Star Wars lore the Sith (bad guys) use their emotions, in particular anger, as a source of power which they wield upon those who stand against their goals. Jedi on the other hand seek to control, or sometimes suppress, their emotions, especially anger, so they do not become controlled by them. The conclusion seems to be that that anger is bad or even evil. But is anger evil?

In our worship reading from Ephesians on Sunday, August 11th we hear St. Paul say, “Be angry but do not sin.” What does that mean? Is anger a good thing then? The Christian answer is that anger is an emotion. Emotions / emotional states provide information on the inner life of a person. Emotions can be powerful, and they can certainly affect our thinking and our actions, but they are not inherently evil.

Anger is a powerful emotion that we all experience at times. When you’re experiencing anger it’s your body / mind letting you know that something has upset you, something has you worried, something has you fearful. We all get angry when someone calls us degrading names, we think of children who are abused, when we hear of victims of human trafficking, when we hear of someone dying from a preventable condition / illness because they don’t have the money to pay for treatment, etc.

It’s good to be angry at these things! All of these are examples of injustice and as Christians we are called in our baptism to follow Jesus. Jesus, who is fully God, is opposed to injustice and therefore so are we. It is unjust to degrade someone with gossip, insults, or stereotypes. It’s unjust to promote, condone, or exploit the financial difficulties of anyone. The suffering of innocent people from warfare, famine, or corrupt legal systems / individuals in power is unjust.

While anger at injustice is not a bad thing St. Paul does make clear that we must be careful in what we do with our anger. Anger that is left to fester or that we dwell on can have serious consequences. We could give into despair by thinking the world is unjust and therefore nothing matters. We could decide to take matters of justice into our own hands instead of leaving it in the hands of those called and elected to dispense justice through a system. We could decide that everyone is out to get us or threatens us and therefore become a danger to ourselves and others.

What is the Christian response to anger? First, to acknowledge that we are angry. We admit how we feel, and then we are called to reflect on why we are angry. Are we afraid or fearful? Are we saddened? Are we disgusted?

Then we pray. Prayer is the beginning of action. We pray and ask for Christ Jesus to give us the grace that we need to not be overcome or controlled by our anger. Jesus after all says that peacemakers and the meek are blessed not the anger controlled, violent, arrogant, or fearful. After taking some time to pray we then seek to move forward in a holy and constructive way.

For example, if someone has angered you by inappropriate comments, gestures, etc., taking time to calmly tell the person that you were offended and why would be a good step. If you were angered by a social injustice what are ways that you can peacefully engage this issue? Maybe voting, donating to an organization that works to address the issue, continuing to pray that Christ would bring healing to this issue, all of these are great places to start.

Anger is a powerful emotion that is not inherently evil. It is an emotion that serves to tell us something about ourselves and our emotional state of being. It is OK to get angry and the reality is that you will experience anger whether you want to or not. The challenge is in addressing anger as a faithful disciple of Christ. We are called by Christ in our baptisms to be peacemakers, to be humble, to recognize our sins and seek forgiveness, and to act in our world in the name of Jesus so that the Triune God may be gloried.

We will all make mistakes in controlling our anger, but we are firstly promised Christ's endless forgiveness in confession, and we are promised that in our baptism we received the Holy Spirit and the gift of the holy spirit which includes self-control. Therefore, the Holy Spirit, who is God, is there to help you avoid being controlled or overcome by anger.

Yours in Christ,

Pr. Nicole



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Michigan Synod**

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In this Issue:

Jesus is Keeping His Promise!

Visit to Papua New Guinea

Christian Nationalism

"Created to Be" in New Orleans

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

Jesus is Keeping His Promise!

I anticipate our synod will celebrate two ordinations in the coming months. Our Candidacy Committee approved Ms. Bridget Whately and Ms. Megan Floyd—both members of Prince of Peace in Portage—for ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thanks be to God! Pastor-Elect Whately is called by Peace in Sparta and will be ordained at Prince of Peace in Portage on August 24. Ms. Floyd is completing internship and prayerfully reviewing paperwork for several congregations in our synod.

The rite of ordination describes the meaning of ordination when the presiding minister says to those to be ordained: "According to apostolic usage you are now to be entrusted with the office of word and sacrament in the one holy catholic church by the laying on of hands and by prayer." As the rite explains, while "all baptized Christians are called to share in Christ's ministry of love and service in the world, to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation," Lutheran Christians believe that, within the people of God and for the sake of the gospel ministry entrusted to all believers, God has instituted the office of ministry of word and sacrament so that the Gospel is preached rightly and the sacraments administered faithfully. For Lutheran Christians understand the church is not a building; the church is more than people. The church is "the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel" (Augsburg Confession, V, VII).

Through their proclamation of the Word and administration of the Sacraments, Ministers of Word and Sacrament are means by which Jesus keeps his promise to be with us always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). Ministers of Word and Sacrament proclaim the good news of Jesus, that we are saved by his grace, that we do not have to earn God's love, and that we cannot lose God's love. They don't tell us that Jesus is knocking at the door of our heart and we need to let him in or that we have to accept Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior as a condition for Jesus to save us. Ministers of Word and Sacrament tell us what God through Christ is doing and they invite us to be part of it, rather than telling us what we should, ought, or must do. Ministers of Word and Sacrament assure us that baptism is God's gift, joining us personally to Jesus's death and resurrection, and not an obstacle. They assure us that Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper to love, forgive, and empower us, and that holy communion is more than a memorial of the Last Supper or a congregation's fellowship feast.

Ordinations are dear to me, I suspect in the same way baptisms are dear to pastors, because we get to participate as Jesus keeps his promise to be with us always. I developed a heart for ordination when, as a seminary professor, I was honored to preach when some of my students were ordained. How inspiring to encounter some of them at the youth gathering and experience the remarkable pastors they've become! Yes, I also get to experience this in some of our synod's pastors who, once-upon-a-time, I taught. Jesus is keeping his promise. Ordaining pastors and deacons is the only thing our church entrusts solely to bishops. During my time as bishop, I have been privileged to ordain 21 pastors and 2 deacons. I have precious memories of all of them; permit me to tell you about one.

Pastor Kate Van Valkenburg was ordained on July 25, 2020. The world was in the midst of a global pandemic. Personally, I visited the ophthalmologist in Chicago on July 23; she was so concerned about the pressure in my right eye that she wanted me to check into the hospital and have surgery the next day. I declined; no, I refused. Something inside me would not allow myself to be the reason Jesus did not raise up a pastor to preach the word and administer the sacraments when the church, the world, and I all needed hope in the face of the sickness, isolation, and death brought on by the pandemic. So the doctor spent the day using drops to bring the pressure down and Cathy and I returned home.

The night before the ordination, my friend and pastor, Gary Bunge, presented the personal crozier he had made for me during the pandemic—a concrete expression of my call as bishop. The next day, carrying that crozier, and clad in cope, miter, and mask, I gathered with perhaps a dozen others for the ordination. Kate's pastor preached. I laid on hands for ordination at arm's length. I really do not recall whether we shared the Lord's Supper. But Jesus was truly present, raising up a pastor to proclaim that Jesus is with us—the world, the church, and each of us—always, to the end of the age. Many of the trimmings and the trappings that usually accompany ordination were missing. From my perspective, that only made the core, the center, the good news shine brighter. Jesus keeps his promise to be with us always, to the end of the age.

That evening, I prayed with David and Rosanne. The next day, trusting Jesus's promise, Cathy and I returned to Chicago for surgery on Monday. Trusting Jesus's promise, Kate began her pastoral ministry. The pandemic continued. And Jesus was with us. Jesus still is. Jesus will always be—always, to the end of the age. And more, Jesus ordains people who devote their lives to publicly proclaiming this good news.

If you have never experienced an ordination or if you need some hope, do yourself a favor and come. As I said, I anticipate our synod will celebrate two ordinations in the coming months. And if you might be experiencing even an inkling that Jesus is nudging you to spend your life publicly proclaiming that Jesus loves all people, that we are saved by grace, that Jesus is with us always, to the end of the age, reach out to your pastor, to Pastor Bright, or to me. If that is too big of a step, visit elcaseminaries.org and journal.faiith, explore their resources, and pray to your father who is in secret. Finally, if you know someone who should consider becoming a pastor, tell them. People started telling me when I was in elementary school; it took years to stick.

"Almighty and merciful God, you built your church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and you instituted the office of the ministry of word and sacrament so that the apostolic and prophetic work might continue throughout the ages. Grant that *Bridget and Megan*, [preparing] to be ordained, may carry out this ministry faithfully in the power of your Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord."

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

Earth Tips

EARTH TIPS from Pat Vance

When I have mentioned the idea of our putting in a solar installation at Hope,

people's reaction has been negative, mainly based on the fact that our electric

bill is so low that it would take years to make back the cost.

Thanks to government incentives, and multiple ways of financing solar installations, that is simply no longer the case. So I asked someone from a

company called Solar Faithful what their answer would be to anyone who

thought small churches need not bother with even thinking about going solar.

The answer was as follows:

- No creation care is too small.
- We need to have alternative energy in place everywhere.
- We need to capitalize on this moment because of all the incentives available. We need to serve as a witness to others.

Churches all over our Synod are putting solar installations on their roofs. Bethlehem Lutheran in Traverse City just finished their installation – the incentives allowed them to get a new roof at the same time, for free. A church in Muskegon is in the planning process for solar. Churches in Lansing banded together to put an installation on a community center and were allowed to use the incentives to help pay for it.

So I am proposing that we at Hope do these things:

- 1) Attend one or both of the Solar Faithful webinars coming up on Zoom. The information is elsewhere in this newsletter. Listening to them is free and informative.
- 2) Approach Christian Neighbors and see if they would be interested in finding out more about a joint installation; maybe we could help bring their electric costs down and benefit ourselves, creation and the community at the same time.
- 3) Educate ourselves about solar and also thermal heat pumps. Maybe it would be more cost effective to cut our heating bills. We won't know unless we're willing to learn, to ask the right questions, to have discussions.

CREATION EVENTS

On August 29th and October 17th, from 7-8 p.m., Solar Faithful and the Synod Environmental Task Force will be holding a webinar for churches to learn about what it would take to put a solar installation on their roofs.

Solar Faithful is a company that works with churches and solar installers

to furnish alternative methods of financing such installations, using a combination of church money, investors, and government incentives. They have programs wherein a church can do a solar installation entirely free or at any level financially comfortable for the church.

If you are interested, you can register to attend one of the webinars at the following site (just click on one):

Registration for August 29, 7:00pm ET.

Registration for October 17, 7:00pm ET.

If you wish to join Pat Vance at her home for the August webinar, just come ahead. Free refreshments! We're hoping to learn how to get the October one to Zoom to the church. More next month.

Bethlehem Lutheran Lansing is hosting a seminar on climate change on October 24th from 7-8:30. The speaker is Chris Edwards, a meteorologist and climate communicator. More info about the seminar can be found at chrisedwards@weather.com or www.weatherchris.com

SAVE THIS DATE!

In collaboration with Ransom District Library, Hope is bringing Barb Hazzlett to Plainwell to talk about Human Trafficking. When asked to speak, Barb said she would be happy to because Plainwell has an active human trafficking cell nearby! Barb is trained by several anti-trafficking organizations and is our Synod's main speaker on this topic.

Barb will be speaking at Ransom Library on October 29th at 6:30 p.m. and urges adults and teens to attend. Please mark your calendars and put out the word to friends and community members.

Help us Worship at Hope

We are looking for worship leaders in a variety of positions! Please consider signing up by speaking to Marne Seiber or Pr. Nicole. All ages are welcome and no experience is needed. Pr. Nicole & Judi Gage are delighted to meet with you to discuss how to serve in these roles.



Acolyte: Helps the congregation worship by lighting the altar candles (baptism candle when seasonally appropriate) at the beginning of service and putting the candles out at the conclusion of worship. This role is one for everyone from 2nd grade through adult.

Reader: Helps the congregation worship by reading the Old Testament, leader parts of the Psalm, and Second Reading. This role is for everyone who feels comfortable with reading Scripture; approximately 3rd grade through adult. Readings are provided several days in advance via email and can be provided earlier if requested. Reading can be done from the lectern or from your seat.

Assisting Minister: Help the congregation worship by leading the prayers, reading the announcements, assisting the pastor as needed, and giving the final dismissal. This role is one for everyone who feels comfortable reading the prayers and announcements.

Communion Assistant: Helps the congregation worship by carrying the tray of individual cups, or the common cup, during Communion. This is available for anyone teen through adult.

Greeter: Helps the congregation, especially visitors, feel welcomed as they enter the building. Provides directions and answers questions regarding church layout and necessary items for worship. This role is one for individuals, couples, and families of all ages.

Fellowship: Helps the congregation celebrate being together by brewing the coffee and providing goodies. Can be done individually or as a group.

Nursery: Provides care for our youngest worshipers ages newborn to 5 who are most comfortable in the nursery during service.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AT HOPE

Prayer Chain - this Prayer List is for Urgent or Special requests for prayer. This list is confidential. To be listed in the prayer chain please contact Judi Gage.

In Our Prayers List - this list is for general or on-going needs for prayer. It is published in the worship bulletins, and the Together Newsletter. They are also read out loud during worship. Please make sure the person / persons you want prayed for have given their permission to be listed and are aware our services are streamed online. To be listed in our prayer list please contact Pr. Nicole.

Tuesday Bible Study Prayer List - The Tuesday Bible Study Group meets at Hope at 9:30 am and prays for various prayer requests. To be listed in the Tuesday bible study prayers please contact Judi Gage or Pat Vance.

Giving to Hope Lutheran Church

At Hope we seek to grow in our faith in Jesus Christ and to share the good news of Jesus Christ in our community and world. This happens because of the faithful giving of so many. Thank you so much for your support!

Give by Check

Checks made out to Hope Lutheran may be safely sent to:

Hope Lutheran Church

290 12th Street, Plainwell, MI 49080

Need Giving Envelopes?

July Financial Report

THE MONTHLY REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY		JULY 2024		
GENERAL FUND	THIS MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	LAST YEAR TO DATE	CHANGE
GENERAL FUND	\$4,896.00	\$42,506.77	\$42,872.55	-\$365.78
LOOSE OFFERING	\$5.00	\$216.33	\$174.43	\$41.90
GENERAL FUND TOTALS	\$4,901.00	\$42,723.10	\$43,046.98	-\$323.88

DESIGNATED GIVING	THIS MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	LAST YEAR TO DATE	CHANGE
ADMINISTRATING EUCHARIST	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
BASEBALL TICKETS	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$0.00	\$32.00
BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	-\$50.00
COMMUNION WINE	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$140.00	-\$70.00
FLOWER FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	-\$10.00
FUNERAL FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$93.00	-\$93.00
KITCHEN FUND	\$0.00	\$481.00	\$0.00	\$481.00
LEAF BLOWER	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
MEMORIAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,615.00	-\$1,615.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$0.00	\$35.00	\$0.00	\$35.00
RETREAT	\$0.00	\$670.00	\$100.00	\$570.00
SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHRISTIAN EDUCATIO	\$0.00	\$47.37	\$31.54	\$15.83
STAFF GIFTS	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$270.00	\$130.00
STUDYING EUCHARIST	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
TORNADO RELIEF	\$0.00	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$175.00
ZOO TRIP	\$0.00	\$496.25	\$0.00	\$496.25
DESIGNATED GIVING TOTAL	\$432.00	\$2,906.62	\$2,309.54	\$597.08

EXTERNAL MINISTRIES	THIS MONTH	2587.87	LAST YEAR TO DATE	CHANGE
CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS	\$50.00	\$2,585.87	\$2,116.05	\$469.82
ELCA FUND LEADERS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	-\$10.00
GOOD HANDS PLAINWELL	\$40.00	\$280.00	\$190.00	\$90.00
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NOISY OFFERING	\$20.07	\$55.99	\$47.89	\$8.10
PROJECT HOPE XICHIUAN (GSF)	\$0.00	\$350.56	\$375.00	-\$24.44
SEMINARY FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SYLVIA'S PLACE	\$40.00	\$280.00	\$155.00	\$125.00
SYNOD DEBT ASSISTANCE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.00	-\$12.00
WINGS OF HOPE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.00	-\$12.00
EXTERNAL MINISTRIES TOTAL	\$150.07	\$3,552.42	\$2,917.94	\$634.48

7.22% PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL GIVING DESIGNATED FOR EXTERNAL MINISTRIES

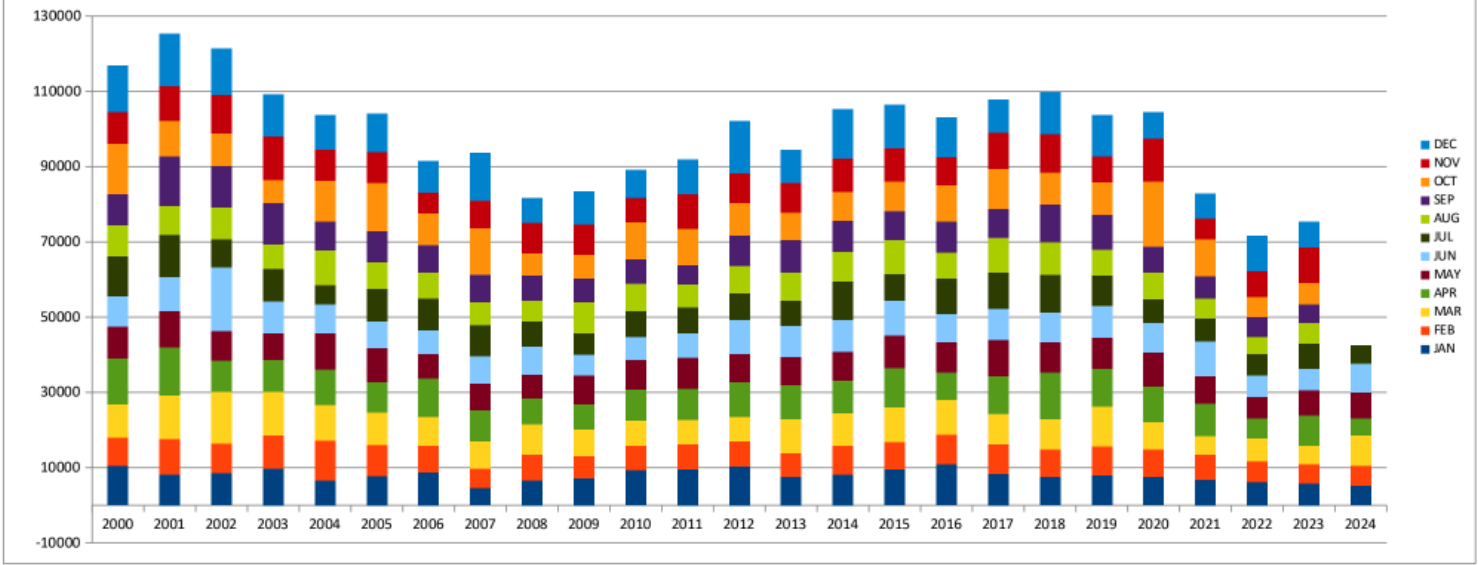
OTHER REVENUE	THIS MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	LAST YEAR TO DATE	CHANGE
REFUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$203.29	-\$203.29
THRIVENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NON GIVING TOTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$203.29	-\$203.29

GRAND TOTALS	\$5,483.07	\$49,182.14	\$48,477.75	\$704.39
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General Fund Giving Past 12 Months:	\$75,059.77	Monthly Average	Weekly Average
		\$6,254.98	\$1,443.46

TOTAL NUMBER OF DONATIONS	40	383	408	-25
NUMBER OF DIFFERENT DONORS	20	43	54	-11

General Fund Giving By Year and Month



General Giving (Non Designated) By Month													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2000	\$10,537.00	\$7,422.00	\$8,843.00	\$12,217.00	\$8,516.00	\$8,056.00	\$10,577.00	\$8,272.00	\$8,306.00	\$13,283.00	\$8,453.00	\$12,306.99	\$116,788.99
2001	\$8,109.00	\$9,615.00	\$11,418.00	\$12,982.00	\$9,471.90	\$9,176.04	\$11,092.00	\$7,990.00	\$13,072.50	\$9,414.00	\$9,288.00	\$13,868.25	\$125,296.69
2002	\$8,658.09	\$7,701.00	\$13,860.00	\$8,212.00	\$7,778.00	\$17,104.80	\$7,502.24	\$8,303.00	\$8,517.37	\$10,384.52	\$12,208.04	\$12,340.94	\$121,340.94
2003	\$9,886.86	\$8,653.00	\$11,717.13	\$8,365.38	\$7,113.00	\$8,459.72	\$8,585.00	\$6,621.54	\$11,001.75	\$6,124.01	\$11,519.96	\$11,042.91	\$109,090.26
2004	\$6,570.00	\$10,745.88	\$9,339.00	\$9,435.48	\$9,729.87	\$7,721.40	\$4,913.63	\$9,397.69	\$7,715.00	\$10,642.78	\$8,307.00	\$9,213.00	\$103,730.73
2005	\$7,712.00	\$8,417.34	\$8,503.34	\$8,055.00	\$9,042.30	\$7,173.48	\$8,622.48	\$7,210.06	\$8,106.34	\$12,860.00	\$8,343.92	\$10,031.46	\$104,077.72
2006	\$8,877.80	\$6,916.00	\$7,670.00	\$10,177.92	\$6,610.00	\$6,340.00	\$8,366.83	\$6,829.00	\$7,360.65	\$8,424.24	\$5,595.00	\$8,343.00	\$91,510.44
2007	\$4,721.29	\$5,130.58	\$7,139.36	\$8,335.00	\$7,072.71	\$7,230.00	\$8,308.50	\$6,005.40	\$7,260.00	\$12,508.50	\$7,374.19	\$12,610.00	\$93,695.53
2008	\$6,518.00	\$6,858.64	\$8,077.50	\$7,010.38	\$6,334.00	\$7,347.00	\$6,621.26	\$5,680.00	\$6,569.86	\$6,009.80	\$8,136.90	\$6,559.00	\$81,722.34
2009	\$7,142.80	\$5,880.00	\$7,129.00	\$6,739.00	\$7,659.00	\$5,547.00	\$5,678.00	\$8,151.30	\$6,422.89	\$6,343.88	\$8,075.72	\$8,700.34	\$83,468.93
2010	\$9,244.00	\$6,615.05	\$6,673.00	\$8,255.30	\$7,844.00	\$6,103.13	\$6,975.00	\$7,170.00	\$6,524.25	\$9,793.00	\$6,541.00	\$7,395.00	\$89,132.73
2011	\$9,537.00	\$6,696.00	\$6,461.00	\$8,243.00	\$8,335.00	\$6,562.00	\$6,802.42	\$6,026.00	\$5,139.00	\$9,686.00	\$9,196.00	\$9,161.00	\$91,844.42
2012	\$10,257.00	\$6,828.00	\$6,413.44	\$9,210.00	\$7,589.46	\$8,881.00	\$7,216.00	\$7,258.82	\$8,049.00	\$8,695.00	\$7,885.00	\$13,790.00	\$102,072.72
2013	\$7,561.28	\$6,374.00	\$8,962.00	\$9,060.00	\$7,626.35	\$8,076.00	\$6,788.00	\$7,407.00	\$8,634.00	\$7,383.00	\$7,811.42	\$8,842.00	\$94,525.05
2014	\$8,301.00	\$7,489.50	\$8,714.00	\$8,571.00	\$7,816.00	\$8,350.00	\$10,324.00	\$7,913.56	\$7,617.00	\$8,135.00	\$8,986.00	\$13,055.20	\$105,272.26
2015	\$9,593.22	\$7,186.00	\$9,200.25	\$10,580.00	\$8,603.00	\$9,334.00	\$6,990.00	\$9,112.00	\$7,586.00	\$7,926.00	\$8,737.00	\$11,534.00	\$106,381.47
2016	\$10,974.00	\$7,751.00	\$9,350.00	\$7,310.87	\$7,884.52	\$7,477.28	\$6,811.00	\$8,151.30	\$8,221.24	\$9,746.43	\$7,360.00	\$10,529.00	\$103,009.11
2017	\$8,295.19	\$7,953.21	\$8,012.00	\$9,961.15	\$9,776.44	\$8,175.12	\$9,727.78	\$9,211.28	\$7,799.00	\$10,425.00	\$9,773.00	\$8,781.17	\$107,890.34
2018	\$7,669.00	\$7,122.00	\$8,117.00	\$12,354.05	\$8,122.00	\$7,916.82	\$10,077.00	\$8,499.19	\$9,987.00	\$8,624.00	\$10,165.36	\$11,078.44	\$109,731.86
2019	\$7,980.00	\$7,712.00	\$10,669.00	\$9,865.00	\$8,370.00	\$8,505.00	\$8,101.89	\$6,715.00	\$9,355.00	\$8,501.00	\$6,886.10	\$10,980.00	\$103,639.99
2020	\$7,610.00	\$7,173.00	\$7,395.00	\$9,393.34	\$9,065.00	\$7,725.00	\$6,490.00	\$7,100.00	\$6,784.40	\$17,264.90	\$11,545.60	\$6,904.00	\$104,450.24
2021	\$6,750.00	\$6,715.00	\$4,950.00	\$8,553.70	\$7,461.00	\$9,278.00	\$5,931.00	\$5,415.00	\$9,820.00	\$5,691.37	\$6,495.00	\$82,800.98	\$82,800.98
2022	\$6,171.19	\$5,399.00	\$6,290.00	\$5,270.00	\$5,741.54	\$5,658.00	\$5,775.00	\$4,395.00	\$5,485.00	\$5,160.00	\$6,901.63	\$9,270.00	\$71,516.36
2023	\$5,715.00	\$5,229.00	\$4,987.00	\$7,893.15	\$6,826.40	\$5,575.00	\$6,647.00	\$5,679.00	\$4,940.00	\$5,570.00	\$9,603.00	\$6,761.00	\$75,425.55
2024	\$5,231.00	\$5,279.06	\$8,037.66	\$4,530.00	\$6,982.25	\$7,550.80	\$4,896.00						

Highest Month: **\$17,264.90** October 2020
 Lowest Month: **\$4,395.00** January 2007 & August 2022

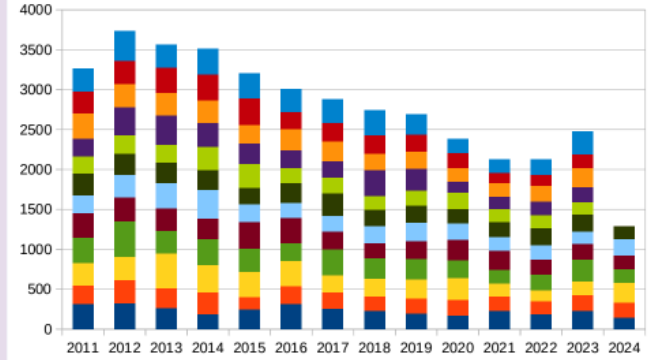
Last Month's Attendance

July 7, 2024	36	Last Month's Total Attendance:	156
July 14, 2024	37	Last Year Same Month:	211
July 21, 2024	42	Year To Date Attendance:	1285
July 28, 2024	41	Last Year to Date Attendance:	1435
		Change From Last Year:	-150
Average Per Week:			
Last Month:	39.0	Year To Date:	44.3
Last Year-Same Month:	42.2	Last Year To Date:	46.3
		2023 Year Average:	46.8

2000's GENERAL GIVING BY YEAR		
Year	Total	Change from Previous Year
2000	\$116,788.99	
2001	\$125,296.69	7.28%
2002	\$121,340.95	-3.16%
2003	\$109,090.26	-10.10%
2004	\$103,730.73	-4.91%
2005	\$104,077.72	0.33%
2006	\$91,510.44	-12.07%
2007	\$93,695.53	2.39%
2008	\$81,722.34	-12.78%
2009	\$83,468.93	2.14%
2010	\$89,132.73	6.79%
2011	\$91,844.42	3.04%
2012	\$102,072.72	11.14%
2013	\$94,525.05	-7.39%
2014	\$105,272.26	11.37%
2015	\$106,381.47	1.05%
2016	\$103,009.11	-3.17%
2017	\$107,890.34	4.74%
2018	\$109,731.86	1.71%
2019	\$103,639.99	-5.55%
2020	\$104,450.24	0.78%
2021	\$82,800.98	-20.73%
2022	\$71,516.36	-13.63%
2023	\$75,425.55	5.47%
2024	\$42,506.77	-40.56%

Current Pace For This Year (General Giving): **\$72,868.75**

Total Attendance By Year



For offering envelopes, contact Keith Gage (kmgage1968@gmail.com)

August and September Calendars

<i>August 2024</i>						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Office Closed	3
4 10:30am - Worship	5 Office Closed	6 9:00am - Coffee with Vets 9:30am - Tuesday Morning Bible Study 3:00pm - Men's Bible Study	7	8	9 Office Closed	10
11 10:30am - Worship	12 Office Closed	13 9:30am - Tuesday Morning Bible Study	14	15 Assumption of Mary	16 Office Closed	17
18 10:30am - Worship	19 Office Closed	20 9:30am - Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6:00pm - Council Meeting	21	22	23 Office Closed	24
25 10:30am - Worship	26 Office Closed	27 9:30am - Tuesday Morning Bible Study	28	29 7:05pm Whitecaps Baseball Game	30 Office Closed	31

<i>September 2024</i>						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 10:30am - Worship	2 Office Closed Labor Day	3 9:00am - Coffee with Vets 9:30am - Tuesday Morning Bible Study 3:00pm - Men's Bible Study	4	5	6 Office Closed	7
8 10:30am - Worship	9 Office Closed	10 9:30am - 10:30am - Worship	11	12	13 Office Closed	14
15 10:30am - Worship	16 Office Closed	17 9:30am - Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6:00pm - Council Meeting	18	19	20 Office Closed	21
22 10:30am - Worship	23 Office Closed	24 9:30am - Tuesday Morning Bible Study	25	26	27 Office Closed	28
29 10:30am - Worship	30 Office Closed					

Newsletter Information

Published 12 times per year
Do you want information in the next monthly newsletter?

- Email
media.hopeplainwell@gmail.com
- Deadline: The 15th of each month.

Feel free to email pictures, announcements, or any other information you would like to share with the congregation in next month's newsletter!

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

- Sunday School (all ages) 9:15 A.M. (no classes during the summer months)

- Worship 10:30 A.M. (in person and on Facebook Live)

290 12th Street

Plainwell, MI 49080

Phone: 269-685-1348

Office email: office.hopeplainwell@gmail.com

Pastor Email: [hopelutheranpastor@gmail.com](mailto:hoperlutheranpastor@gmail.com)

Webpage: hopeplainwell.org

Hope's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HopeLutheranPlainwellMI>

Office Hours: Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - noon, Wednesday: 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Thursday: 4:15 - 7:15 p.m.

The office is closed whenever Plainwell schools are closed and for major holidays.