

# HOPE HERALD



December 2021 – February 2022

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
876 Lance Drive, Twin Lakes, WI 53181  
Office: 262-877-4381 Pastor: 757-831-6948  
E-Mail: [secretary@hopetwinlakes.org](mailto:secretary@hopetwinlakes.org)  
Website: [hopetwinlakes.org](http://hopetwinlakes.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/hopetwinlakes](https://facebook.com/hopetwinlakes)

## **PASTOR'S CORNER:** **CHRISTMAS AND WORSHIP**

When I was a kid, multiple worship services on Christmas Eve and then Christmas Day was an expected part of the celebration. By the time I was in Jr High School, our whole family (including any relatives that visited us for the holidays) went to church on Christmas Eve at 5:00 because my younger sisters sang in the Junior Choir. Then we returned at 7:00 for the Christmas Cantata in which I sang. We drove back from the suburbs into the city of Chicago to attend midnight service at the church where my parents grew up (at which I proudly was the only one of my siblings to remain awake). On Christmas morning, we were back in church again at 10:30 where my mom sang as part of the adult choir.

How did my parents do it? Somewhere in there, my mom fit a scrumptious meal with exquisite desserts afterward, we opened presents, the family visited, and we were all dressed in our finest for every service. The thought of doing that today staggers my mind – but I would not trade those memories. I learned by the sheer magnitude of all that we squeezed in, that something about that holiday was tremendously special! And along the way, the glory of the birth of our Savior was more than words – it surpassed the scope of everything else in our daily lives. Thanksgiving be to God for the wonderful heritage I received from my family in which the transcendent became real!

Pastor Tim

## **DOES THIS YEAR SEEM DARKER AND COLDER TO ANYONE ELSE?**

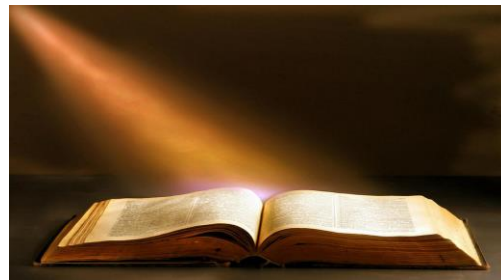
By Pastor Tim

The world around us is changing very quickly; but of all the ways that is happening, the most disconcerting can be the societal and cultural darkness rapidly descending upon us and sweeping huge numbers of people, especially our young people, into deception. I've attached a wonderful article by Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz, former speaker of the Lutheran Hour and now director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Freedom. As Lutherans, we enjoy the benefit of clear biblical teaching on the respective roles of church and Caesar. Dr. Seltz does a great job of highlighting the problems yet calling us to the light and hope that are ours in Jesus Christ.

Could you imagine if our country was at war, and you came to church week after week, but your pastor never mentioned it, never prayed about it, or never brought biblical truth to bear upon it? We prioritize timeless truths, and yet it is imperative that the church apply those truths to its present context. The fact is, we are at war. It is a war of ideas and beliefs which directly conflict with God's Word. If we fail as Christians to grasp these things, our faith becomes

irrelevant and our message to the world is just noise. So I decided it was time to address this even more vigorously.

Our Sunday Morning Adult Class was scheduled to do a series on Lutheran Hymnody beginning Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>. I have decided to change that. We'll do that series sometime in the future, but beginning Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, I would like to examine "Christians in a Woke Society." According to current mainstream thought in the press, in education, and in politics, why are you considered a racist, irrespective of what you think, believe, or do? We will examine the ideas behind our new "woke" society and see how they constitute, in fact, a false religion which is contradicted by our biblical faith. To live in our world today, this is a series you do not want to miss. Please join me, Sunday mornings, downstairs, from 10:25-11:00.



Here is the article by Dr. Seltz:

Jesus says, "In this world you will have trouble. But, take heart, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33-34)

I remember getting off the plane in New York City as a mission-planter in Manhattan back in the 1990s. We were called to evangelize the Hell's Kitchen on the West side to start a church. I was thrilled and excited, but truth be told, I was also anxious and a bit afraid. Wouldn't you be? Be honest. I felt exhilarated like the disciples in Mark 13 when they said to Jesus, "Look at these beautiful buildings!" Only to receive Jesus' "reality check" when He said that none of these buildings would last. If we can be overwhelmed by mere buildings and the power of those who built them, how shall we face the "principalities and the powers" that seek to dominate even the powers that be?

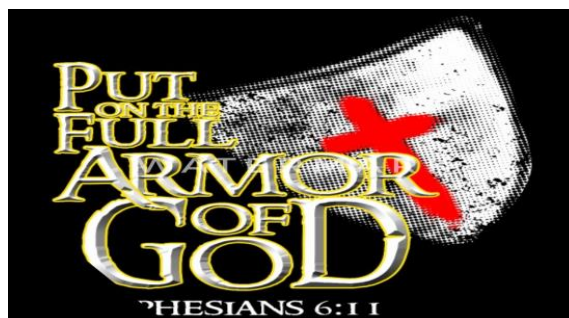
. . . At times, we all will be intimidated, overwhelmed, or afraid because there is an even deeper source to our adversity than mere circumstance. Our battle is ultimately “not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:12). Wow! But, second, in full view of that overwhelming reality, we can face whatever comes because our Savior Jesus is the resource, strength, and power for the lives of all who put their faith in Him. Why? One “little word” from God can fell the principalities and powers, and God’s Word—His Law, His Gospel—saves.



So, what do you do when you are intimidated by the powers that be, the forces we see? What happens when they can demonize, caricature, intimidate, and destroy? Give to “Caesar”? Honor “Caesar”? What happens when he goes rogue? In a democracy, it’s hard to imagine that Caesar has gone rogue. But when legislatures are cheering legislation that allows people willfully to kill children up to the day they were born even after the ninth month, what can one say but “Caesar” has gone rogue. When “Caesar” can publicly demote the Church amidst a global crisis with threats of force and ridiculous fines, reclassifying it as a “nonessential” institution for our culture, “Caesar” has gone rogue. When public officials and judges can literally stand against the clear moral teachings of the Bible, proclaiming that men are not men and women or not women, that people are only what “they say they are” irrespective of God’s created ordering of things, Caesar is out of control and in many ways our culture is losing its mind. What can one say when the platform of one of the political parties in the freest country in the world, literally

targets the church because of its moral teachings, seeking to legislate the Church into submission, while, the other party, faced with the opportunity to defend or protect the Church properly against such attacks, shrinks back from the task? What can one say when government and media can literally demonize people who merely want to defend their right to educate their children in the values of their faith, while also lionizing the disastrous sexual libertine lifestyle and its effects that are ravaging relationships across the country? What can we say? We can speak the truths of the Bible in love.

The battle today is not ultimately about politics, economics, or culture. The battle is for the eternal souls of people. To that end, the Bible actually paints the scope of the conflict as even worse than the problematic issues of the present day. Behind it all is evil, rebellious principalities and powers, seeking to corrupt and destroy us. And if you are fearful due to your incapacity before such powers, sadly, the truth is that your vulnerability is even worse than you can imagine. But, especially then, as you bring your fears to the foot of the cross, as you put on the whole armor of God through His word, the power that you have to face those fears IN CHRIST is even greater than you can envision too.



So, in view of the reality of the principalities and the powers, and even the powers that be, what can we do? We humbly and courageously learn to speak God's enduring truth in love. We engage the world God's two ways (reflecting His preserving work and proclaiming His saving work). We can boldly speak of God's creating and ordering of the world. We can humbly speak His Law because we are just as broken as the world and boldly share His

Gospel because His grace is for all. We can differentiate the work of the State from the work of the Church so that each can do the work God intended them to do. We can remind others that in a healthy society we don't put our trust in "princes, politicians, and magistrates," even though we honor their work of curbing sinful, outward behavior, while encouraging each other to freely putting God's Word to work in and through our lives for others. We can strive to fulfill our vocations in service to others as Christ himself serves us.

Especially now, we can strive to use the freedoms that God has given us to properly locate "Caesar's sphere" while expanding the Church's Law/Gospel voice in the public square for all. We can encourage each other to take up our responsibility anew to educate our children in the values and virtues of our faith, so that all might come to know there's nothing to fear when God is on your side with His Word as one's guide.



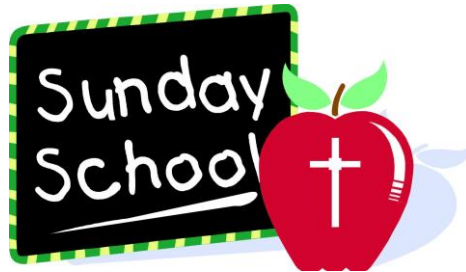
The Bible says that things are worse, more out of control, than one can imagine because of our sinful incapacity to save ourselves. And yet, in Christ, things are better than one can imagine because God Himself has made possible eternal life and salvation for all through His Son, Jesus. So, in view of the challenges of the moment, as God's people we especially are called to speak the truth in love with humility, grace, and courage . . . "Take heart. I have overcome the world" for you!



## **VOTERS' MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The next Voters' Meeting, including election of officers and approval of the 2022 budget will be held after the worship service on Sunday, December 19. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Officer positions that will be voted on will be President, Treasurer, Director of Finance, Secretary, Chairman of the Trustees and Elders. If you are interested in being considered for service in any of these positions, please speak with **George Kelm**, President of the Congregation.



Our children's Sunday School has grown, and we give glory to God for this! We have 3 classes--first, our 10 and above children, including our confirmands; secondly, our intermediate class, age 5-9; and then our toddler/Pre-K class. We are grateful for the opportunity to teach God's word to your precious children! We highly encourage our parents to attend the adult Sunday School class while your children are learning with us. We are blessed by your children, and we are having lots of fun too!

We begin our Sunday School hour with a short time in the sanctuary for singing, and then we go down to our classes. Presently, our children are learning "Away in a Manger" for our upcoming Christmas program, so please feel free to practice this at home with them. We also encourage you to ask your child what we did in class! We hope and pray they can not only recall the lesson, but also share in the excitement. Finally, we encourage you to go to Hope's

Facebook page by Sunday evening--Cheryl and Stan graciously come to our classes afterward, to record our lessons, in sort of a "re-enactment" afterward (so the children are not recorded). You will see what we have done in our classes, as well as step by step instruction on the crafts we made that day. You may wish to click "like" or share it on your own Facebook wall!  
Taping our lessons has been a blessing to any child who may have been home sick too.

**Praising God for our Sunday School!**  
**Teachers and Co-Teachers, Dave, Jan, Dawn, Tabra, Courtney, and Jackie**

## **WOMEN OF HOPE**



Thanks to our generous congregation we collected over 25 backpacks that were donated to Wheatland and Randall Elementary School. The teachers were thrilled to receive them. They joyfully distributed them to students in need. It is hard to believe that December is upon us! Time certainly flies.

Operation Christmas Child wrapped up early this year; however, we collected 25 boxes that will be distributed to kids around the world.

We have a few ladies who have started to volunteer at the Shalom Center in Kenosha once a month passing out meals. Shalom Center is Kenosha County's only homeless shelter. It provides 24/7 shelter, provides the community with food through its food pantry and soup kitchen. If you would like to volunteer or need more information, please See **Beth Schneider**.





Coming up we have 2021 Trees on Parade & Holiday Shopping “Disney Christmas” Friday, December 3rd ~ 4:00 pm-8:00pm and Saturday December 4th ~ 10:00am-4:00pm at St. John the Evangelist Church 700 N. Lake Ave., Twin Lake. Tree Contest ~ Decorated Trees will be placed around the Community Center at St. John’s. Please drop off donations by Thursday December 2<sup>nd</sup> 5pm as we will be boxing up items, We are looking for baked goods, crafty items anything we can sell at the craft fair. We are also looking for volunteers for set up crew, working the event on Friday and Saturday and the take down crew. Please see **Gail** for any details.

We would love to have you join us for our Monthly Meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each and every Month at 6pm.

**Blessings!**  
**Tami Voigt, President**

## **CHOIR NOTES**



Hard to believe Advent and Christmas music time is already here! We are still growing, and welcomed new choir members – **Paul Trettin** and **Jackie Howard** - this Fall! Always grateful for this

group of wonderful people who pour out their hearts to praise the Lord with music!

We will enhance our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services with music you may be familiar with or may be new to hear, and we hope you will enjoy those celebrations!

If you enjoy music and singing, please consider spending some time with us for fellowship, fun and making a joyful noise to praise the Lord! You do not have to be a member of Hope to join.

Blessings for a joyous Christmas and joy-filled 2022!

**Gail Feick**  
**Director**

## **2022 CAR SHOW**



I know it's cold out, but plans for a warm weather, exciting event - **the 2022 car show** - will start at the end of February!

We had 41 cars this past July, and many of our happy exhibitors are excited about coming back to enjoy a full show – **complete with spaghetti/sloppy joe dinner, silent auction and raffles** – this coming July. **YES! A full-swing car show!**

A meeting will be held to talk about finalizing the date, and the various important functions – times, advertising/publicity, music, food selections, silent auction/raffles, point people for key areas, etc. An email will go out closer to February to get your input on a meeting date. There is plenty to do, so your suggestions and help are always welcome!

Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2021 show the amazing event it was! May God bless us with bigger and better in 2022!

**Gail Feick**

## **CHRISTMAS QUIZ**

- 1) Christmas has always been celebrated on Dec 25<sup>th</sup>. T or F
- 2) Joseph lived in: a) Bethlehem b) Nazareth c) Jerusalem d) Egypt
- 3) Mary and Joseph were considered married at the time she became pregnant according Jewish culture. T or F
- 4) Who told Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem?  
a) the angel b) the Lord c) Caesar Augustus d) Herod the Great
- 5) According to scripture, how did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem? a) Donkey b) Unknown c) Walked d) Joseph walked and Mary rode the donkey
- 6) Mary was a virgin when she delivered Jesus. T or F
- 7) How many angels spoke directly to the shepherds?  
a) one b) three c) a multitude d) none of the above
- 8) What was the angel's final declaration to the shepherds?  
a) "Joy to the world, the Lord has come" b) "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will to men" c) "Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given" d) "Glory to the newborn king"

## **SOME USEFUL LINKS FROM PR TIM**

*Here are some links I have shared in the past. If you haven't taken advantage of them, please consider – I think they will enrich your life.*

*Amazon Smile – If you buy things on Amazon anyways, simply signing up for Amazon Smile and listing your church, Hope Lutheran of Twin Lakes, as your chosen charity, diverts .5% of your purchases back to the Lord's work.*

[https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi\\_chpf\\_redirect?ie=UTF8&%2AVersion%2A=1&%2Aentries%2A=0](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi_chpf_redirect?ie=UTF8&%2AVersion%2A=1&%2Aentries%2A=0)

*Voice of the Martyrs – You can sign up for a free subscription to the Voice of the Martyrs magazine. Just perusing some of the stories of present-day persecutions of your Christian brothers and sisters around the world which you would likely hear from no other source, will change your identity as you begin to see yourself as a stranger in this world and a citizen of heaven. <https://www.persecution.com/>*

*Daily Citizen Morning Headlines – Focus on the Family, started years ago by Christian Child Psychologist James Dobson, has many items available; but the one I receive is a selection of various news articles and headlines which are of special interest to me as a Christian in society. The news you consume shapes your view of the world. Will someone else decide it for you, or will you contour it to your faith?*

<https://link.focusonthefamily.com/email/other/emailPage.html?>