



# Newsletter

**APRIL 2024**

**Worship God.**

**Follow Jesus.**

**Serve Others.**

"In Him (Jesus) was life, and that life was the light of all. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it...the true light that gives light to every person was coming into the world." John 1:4,5,9

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy Easter! Christ is risen from the dead and He gives the gift of eternal life to all who believe in Him. Welcome to life, life abundant and eternal through Jesus Christ.

English theologian and historian Thomas Fuller appears to be the first person to commit the notion that "the darkest hour is just before the dawn" to print. He wrote this in 1650. Emmylou Harris, popular bluegrass music recording artist wrote lyrics to "Darkest Hour Is Just Before the Dawn" in 1980. The second verse of her song is "The narrow way leads home, Lay down your soul at Jesus' feet, The darkest hour is just before dawn."

In the present day darkness seems to prevail. War and violence, anger and injustice, are prevalent all around the world. If we are not careful, the darkness can dim our vision and diminish our confidence in the ultimate victory of light, life and liberty through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

In this season of Easter (and it is a season, not just a day) we can renew our faith and trust in the power of God to redeem the world through Jesus, His Son. Like the much quoted verse and song mentioned above, the darkest hour seems to be just before the dawning of light. If that be true, then the darkness that deepens should increase our anticipation of the light that soon rises.

Keep your eyes and your faith focused on the eastern sky, the Son, the light of the world, will surely be coming soon.

Blessings,

Wade Panse, Pastor

## SERMON SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

Date	Calendar	Theme	Sermon	Text
April 7	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Action	What We Do	1 John 1:1-2:2
April 14	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Being	Who We Are	1 John 3:1-7
April 21	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Knowledge	What We Know	1 John 3:16-24
April 28	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Love	What We Love	1 John 4:7-21

## INSPIRATIONAL WORD FOR THE MONTH

“Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” John 20:30-31

# Thank You!

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU

*A sincere word of gratitude is here extended to the Rev. Sheila Baker and her husband Keith who served this church well during the months of January, February and March. Sheila's devotion to God, her confidence in God's Word, and her love for this local church has again been witnessed through her preaching and pastoral care during our Pastor's absence.*

*Thank you Sheila and Keith. We love you and thank God for you.*

## THANK YOU

*As Patti and I return to Cassopolis this month, we want to thank this congregation for allowing us an absence of three months for rest and renewal. We gladly return to serve this congregation again this year and thank God for the privilege of serving and ministering to this church and community.*

*Dear Friends,*

*Thank you so much for your recent donation of \$123.00. Contributions to Helping Hands are used to support outreach to our community in Cass County. These services include our food pantry, clothing, utility, medical and transportation assistance as well as support to elementary kids through Sam Adams Back Pack Program and to local low-income seniors.*

*Our organization provided over 7,090 services to individuals in 2023 because of donors like yourself. Pantry numbers nearly doubled from the previous year. We are grateful for your donation that supports services to people in need.*

*Thank you & God's Blessings,*

*Leigh Goyings*

*Helping Hands Secretary*

## **HARDING'S REWARDS**

We recently received a check from the *HARDING'S REWARDS* Program. The check for \$130.66 is the result of several church shoppers using the rewards program while doing their regular shopping. Thank you to all of those who continue to participate in this program. If you are not currently using the program and are interested, the church office can help you sign-up.

## "Mitten Tree" Project

A special thank you to Barb Mesko for her kindness and dedication to the "Mitten Tree Project" all through the winter months. Once again, we were able to provide cold weather items for countless boys and girls. Through the generosity of our church family, we are able to show the love of Christ to the children of this community who are in need. Thank you to everyone for your commitment to our local students!

## Helping Hands of Cass County...needs a Hand!

Working with local schools, gather or buy donated items requested to meet the most basic student needs.

Cassopolis and Marcellus schools: Clothes and hygiene product closet:

Girls' (size 6- Adult XL)

Boys' (size 6- Adult XL)

Leggings

Joggers

Long and short-sleeved shirts

Long and short sleeved-shirts

Socks and underwear

Socks and underwear

Brushes/combs

Brushes/combs

Feminine protection

Deodorant

Deodorant

Jackets

## LITTLE HUMOR FOR THE MONTH

A grandmother was reading the family Bible together with her six year old grandson. As she turned the page, a dried and pressed oak leaf fell from between the pages. The observant grandson quickly identified the leaf and told his grandmother "it must be Adam's shorts!"



# APRIL



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b> Worship 10 AM Holy Communion	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <i>Diane Sumption</i>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>14</b> Worship 10 AM <i>Bill Westrate</i>	<b>15</b> <i>Monica McMichael</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>Daphne Krager</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>21</b> Worship 10 AM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <i>Sewing Sowers 10AM</i> <i>Bonnie Checkley</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Kim Garver</i>	<b>26</b> <i>Sarah Stanage</i>	<b>27</b> <i>St Paul Lutheran Food Pantry 11:30 - 1 PM</i>	
<b>28</b>	29	<b>30</b> <i>Kimberly &amp; Larry Garver</i>					

**If your special date does not appear on this calendar, please let the office know.**