**Our Sesquicentennial Year**

 The motto for our 150th anniversary is ***“O God, Our Help in Ages Past, Our Hope for Years to Come!”*** (*LSB* #733:1) A logo and banners have been created, and an anniversary hymn is being written by the Rev. Steven Starke, St. John, Bay City-Amelith (has several hymns and liturgy parts in *LSB*). A new photo directory is also being produced (first since 2008!). Former Pastors have been contacted and invited to attend and/or participate in our anniversary service. A historical display is also being prepared. We’ll also have a float in the Port Hope July 8 parade.

 The following special events have been scheduled: Outside Worship Service & Picnic: Sun., July 22 (at McTaggarts’ “Lake Judy”); Community Outside Festival: Sat., Sept. 15; Anniversary Service (3:00pm) & Dinner (following at the AmVets Hall): Sun., Sept. 16.

 Members of the Committee are Scott Iseler, Pastor Dodge, Carol Hunter, and Vicki Koglin. If you have suggestions, please let Scott or Pastor know.

**FESTIVAL**/COMMEMORATION **DAYS IN JULY**

July 6 Isaiah, *Prophet*

July 16 Ruth, *Ancestress of David & Jesus*

July 20 Elijah, *Prophet*

July 21 Ezekiel, *Prophet*

**July** **22 St. Mary Magdalene**

**July 25 St. James the Elder, *Apostle***

July 28 Johann Sebastian Bach, *Kantor*

July 29 Mary, Martha, & Lazarus of Bethany, *Friends of Jesus*

July 30 Robert Barnes, *Confessor & Martyr*

July 31 Joseph of Arimathea, *Jesus’ Tomb Provider*

**YOUTH NEWS**

 Monthly meetings of the Youth Group (Confirmed through high school) will resume in September on the **third Monday of every month, 7:00pm**, in the “big room” in the school building.

 The Youth will be preparing and taking orders for various 150th anniversary souvenirs as a fundraiser: shirts (t-, polo, sweat-), mugs, cups, etc.

***“Green with Envy”***

 In my previous congregation there were a few middle school age boys that wanted to know what color the paraments and my stole would be on any given Sunday, so that they could wear a matching shirt and/or tie that day. (“Jesus declared, ‘I thank You, Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and Revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was Your Gracious Will.’” Matt. 11:25-26). I told them that they could get out their green shirts/ties for quite a while beginning in May/June and continuing through November!

 After **red “Pentecost Sunday”** (May 20 this year) and **white “Holy Trinity Sunday”** (May 27), the paraments will be **green** for the **next 27 Sundays** – the long **season of Pentecost** (with the exception of few Festival days that fall on a Sunday this year).

 **Why green?**: Green is the color of **growth**. Following the seasons of Advent (blue), Christmas (white), Epiphany (green), Lent (purple), and Easter (white), we want to celebrate and focus on how all that God has done for us in Christ affects our daily lives as Christians; that is, how we continually **“*grow*” in Christ**. This is also reflected in the Concordia Publishing House **Sunday School curriculum** **“*Growing* in Christ,”** and our **congregational memorization** routine, **“*Growing* as One.”**

 As you know, green is also associated with **“envy,”** something not normally considered a good thing. “Envy” is defined as a *noun*: “The *feeling* of wanting to have what *someone else has*;” and as a *verb*: “The *desire* to have a quality, possession, or other desirable attribute *belonging to someone else*.” Well, whether “envy” is a good thing or a bad thing **depends on who/what that “someone else” is/has.**

 Yes, the Eighth Commandment forbids “coveting” what others have. However, **when the “Someone else” is God, then we certainly “desire to have” all that He has and Gives to us.** And we **receive these things in His Word and Sacraments.**

 And, not only do we want and receive these Blessings for ourselves, **we also want others to have them! That’s how the Church “*grows*”!**: The *Holy Spirit* Works through the shared Word to bring people to Saving faith.

 That’s what we begin focusing on beginning with **“The Day of Pentecost”** – the **“Birthday of the Christian Church”** – when the **Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles** as “tongues of fire on their heads,” and allowing them to proclaim the Gospel in people’s native languages (“speaking in tongues”). **The Church then spread (“*grew*”)** from there (Jerusalem) to the far reaches of the world.

 I pray that as you enjoy your Summer months you’ll take the opportunities that God places before you to **share the “Hope to which [God] has called you, what are the Riches of His Glorious Inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable Greatness of His Power toward us who believe, according to the Working of His Great Might that He Worked in Christ …” (Eph. 1:18b-20a)** In other words, **share why you’re “*Green* with *Envy*!”**

 In His service & yours,

 ***Pastor Dodge***

**“Growing as One”**

 The following memory items can be used within the **daily office services** in the ***Lutheran Service Book***: Matins (pp.219ff.), Vespers (pp.229ff.), Morning Prayer (pp.235ff.), Evening Prayer (pp.243ff.), Compline (pp.253ff.), Responsive Prayers 1 (pp.282ff.) & 2 (pp.285ff.), and **Daily Prayer for Individuals & Families (pp.294ff.)**.

**Week Passage *Catechism* Hymn(s)\***

July 1 - 7 Mark 5:34a-b Table of Duties - Citizens *LSB* #755

July 8 - 14 Mark 6:12 Table of Duties - Husbands *LSB* #839

July 15 - 21 Mark 6:29 Table of Duties - Wives *LSB* #743

July 22 - 28 Mark 6:41-42 Table of Duties - Parents *LSB* #644

July 29 – Aug. 4 Mark 6:50 Table of Duties - Children *LSB* #754

 (\*at least 1st stanza)

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Wednesday Bible Study, and Confirmation classes will all resume in September.

*NOTE:* If you know of anyone interested in adult instruction, which can lead to adult Confirmation/membership, please let Pastor know.

***Port Hope July 8 Parade***

 As part of our sesquicentennial year celebration we will have a float in the Port Hope **July 8** parade, which starts at **2:00pm**. Anyone who wants to ride on the float (especially children!), or walk beside it are welcome to show up at the parade starting point (Perry’s Gas Station area) at **1:30pm**. Congregation participants are encouraged to where **1868 period attire** and facial hair (mustaches, beards, hats, etc.).

**OUTSIDE WORSHIP SERVICE & PICNIC**

 On **Sunday, July 22** (“St. Mary Magdalene”), the **10:30am** **worship service** will be held outside at the **McTaggarts’ pond** (“Lake Judy,” Kinde Rd.). Please bring your own lawn chair, though other chairs will be available on site. Following the service will be a congregational **pot-luck picnic** at the same location. Please bring a dish (various salads, rolls/breads, entrées, desserts, etc.). Drinks will be provided (water, coffee, soda pop, punch).

 For those who don’t want to/can’t attend the outside service, the **8:00am service** that day will be held **at church** as usual. Neither service will have Communion.

 Pray for good weather!

**“*ASK THE PASTOR*”**

**Q: How do you choose who’ll fill in for you on Sundays when you’re on vacation?**

**A:** First, I’ll consider the retired pastors in our dual Circuits (Thumb East & West); and, of course, Pastor Leo Thoms (since he’s a son of the congregation and lives here in Port Hope). If they’re not available, then I’ll ask pastors I’m acquainted with who don’t live too far away (to save on mileage costs and convenience). If that fails, then I’ll consider other pastors I know who may be farther away. Other options are Ordained men from one of the Synod’s/District’s R.S.O.s (Recognized Service Organizations; *e.g.* Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Concordia Univ.-Ann Arbor, Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society [for the deaf], etc.), or from the District Office itself (*e.g.*, on June 17 the Rev. Galan Walther, Congregational Ministry Facilitator for the Thumb Zone filled in for me). Finally, I’d try to get seminary student (meaning there couldn’t/wouldn’t be Communion). If all else fails, the Elders could lead the service (again, no Communion), and read a sermon prepared by me.

 In every case I’ll try to get someone who’s at least a decent preacher, and on the “same page” with us regarding worship practice.