

~~ MAY 2021 ~~

The Messenger

***Cross of Christ
Lutheran Church***
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Paul Mueller, Pastor



Worship Services

Sunday: 10:00 am

Communion

1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Bible Classes

Sunday: 9:00 am

Monday: 1:30 pm, 7:00 pm

Tuesday: 11:00 am

Wednesday: 4:15 pm

Thursday: 1:30 pm

Men's Bible Class

Second Saturday: 9:30 am

Sunday School

Sunday: 9:00 am

Message from the Pastor

THE SOUL TOUPEE

Tim Kreider is a cartoonist, a gifted writer and also the man who has coined the term "Soul Toupee." That term came about when Kreider and a friend used to frequent an oyster bar in Baltimore, MD. One day they noticed how one of the regulars there wore what Kreider calls "the worst toupee in the world, a comical little wig taped in place on the top of his head." The man was trying to hide his lack of hair in the cheapest way possible. It fooled no one and made him look kinda creepy. From that, Kreider and his friend developed the concept of what he calls "The Soul Toupee."

Kreider's definition for the Soul Toupee is as follows: The Soul Toupee is that thing about ourselves we are most deeply embarrassed by and like to think we have...concealed to the world, but which is, in fact, pitifully obvious. It would be like an elephant trying to hide in a group of giraffes; or putting lipstick on a pig. In this self-illusion, you deceive yourself into thinking 'if I can't see it no one else will either'. How foolish.

Kreider adds this for those preparing to uncover the Soul Toupee: Contemplating one's own Soul Toupee is not an exercise for the fainthearted. Why would that be? Because we don't like to admit our own failings and miscues. Getting down to the bottom of the problem is uncomfortable at best.

The soul toupee is nothing new. ***"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us"***, the apostle John wrote. A holy God sees through the soul toupees. Every single one of them. Elsewhere in the Bible, God told us that he cannot be fooled. Can we claim to be without sin? Not a chance. It would be nice but...

So, what's your soul toupee? What ugly, sinful rut have you been trying to cover up or camouflage for far, far too long? Is it laziness, lust, greed, pride, a sense of

entitlement, ducking responsibility, blaming others? Has anger, jealousy or bitterness been in control of your thoughts and words? Or is it the absence of self-discipline or raw self-absorption? Is it, perhaps most tragic of all, thinking ‘I don’t need God’?

Whatever it is, the same holy God who sees through all the toupees also gives us a beautiful promise. When we confess our sins, John says, **“He [God] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”** God makes this promise on the basis of his Son, Jesus Christ, who has lived a holy life in our place and suffered and died on the cross for our every sin. Christ alone saves us. Soul toupees be gone. Bald is beautiful if it leads us closer to Christ.

Something to Think About A Mountain in the Way

By the summer of 1805, Meriwether Lewis had had enough. For well over a year, he and his partner, William Clark, had been leading several dozen men across the western half of the United States under the instruction of President Jefferson. They had encountered all kinds of unexpected setbacks, brutal difficulties, exhausting stress (and sore feet I’m sure). Over the past several weeks they had been struggling through an entire range of mountains until their energy level was gone.

But now the worst was over—they thought. Climbing ahead of his men, Lewis reached the top of the highest mountain pass. As he did, he had every reason to believe that when he reached the top and looked beyond, he would see only slopes descending to the Pacific Ocean.



But when he got there, he received a major shock. As he stood on top of that pass and looked beyond, he saw... more mountains. Lots more. Mountains as far as he could see.

Has that ever been you? Perhaps that’s you right now. You have been struggling through mountains of difficulty only to look beyond and see more mountains. Mt. Covid has been looming large for quite some time. Just beyond that you see Mt. I-can’t-pay-my-bills. Right next to it are the foothills of frantic crises that never seem to stop. Mt. Loneliness stretches in the background. Beyond that, Mt. Old Age and-all-that-goes-with-it is threatening.

But as you stand there and look at those mountains, there’s something else for you to see. It’s Jesus. St. Paul reminds us of His goodness: 1 Cor. 1:8 The Lord Jesus Christ will keep you strong. He’s right there with us. He’s not beyond those mountains. He’s by your side. He is not some Sunday school story. He is your living Lord, your most trusted friend. For all the times you have doubted him, he has washed you clean in his blood. For all the times you’ve been afraid, he has been your champion. For all the times you’ve been weak, he has been your strength. For all the failings we’ve had and done, Jesus is our success.

Lewis and his men kept going because the President had sent them. They completed their journey. Generations have benefitted from their efforts.

You will complete your journey too. You will because Jesus, your Savior, walks beside you and has sent you to be his disciple. He will keep you strong. He will keep you strong to the end. Your descendants will benefit from the faithfulness you show. The blue you see at the end won’t be the Pacific; it will be Heaven.

Pastor John McArthur

BIBLE BASEBALL

Single - What sign did God put in the sky to tell us there would be no more world-wide flood?
Double - Where did God cause everyone to speak different languages?
Triple - Who was the King who threw the 3 men into the fiery furnace?
Home Run - Besides himself, how many people did Jesus raise back up from the dead? (Bonus: what were their names?)



Congregational Assistant Program Presents

Christian Leadership Seminar

In the early centuries Christian church leaders served the gospel, taught the Word, struggled in difficulties. They trusted God to send help and encouragement, and this He did through the pens of chosen writers.

Treasured letters, carried on foot over distant paths or sailed by ship through treacherous seas, were safely delivered by God's almighty hand. God's children pored over these precious Words, cherishing the faith they brought and the faithful men who brought them.

This *Christian Leadership* seminar is alive with the same truths that inspired and sustained our ancient brothers and sisters. A letter from Paul to Pastor Titus and studies of Stephen, Peter and Paul show us how they served, taught, and struggled.

This seminar would be a wonderful learning experience for all men and women of the congregation involved or interested in Leadership.

Sat., May 22, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Hope Lutheran Church
1010 N. Road 1E Chino Valley, AZ

Guest Speaker
Dr. John Boeder

Campus Pastor Martin Luther College, New Ulm MN

To Pre-register Contact
Mr. Rusty Briggie
staffminister@hopechinovale.com
928-235-7255

Registration: \$10 per person.
Childcare available, upon request
Free will offering lunch will be provided

For more information about the
Congregational Assistant Program
visit our website at <http://www.welscap.org>

BIBLE BASICS CLASS

Uncle Sam wants you—I mean Pastor wants you—to be a part of the new Bible Basics Class. Even though we are four lessons in, you can still join in! You can start in and catch up with what we covered later. If you know little about the Bible, you need to be in this class. We meet on **Mondays at 1:30**. Call Pastor at 757-3543 if you want to know more.

KIDS CORNER

Check out the new series of videos for children 8 and under on our YouTube channel. These short videos include a Bible lesson and fun experiments kids and parents can try out at home.

YOUNG ADULTS EVENING BIBLE CLASS

This group meets on Tuesdays at 6:30PM. The first series will be *Engage*, a video and discussion outing designed to get you to think about your relationship with God and others. Contact Pastor if you might be interested.

BASEBALL ANSWERS: Single = Rainbow; Double = Babel; Triple = Nebuchadnezzar; Homer = 3; young man from Nain, Lazarus, Jairus' daughter

HUMOR

In one of Charles Schulz's classic *Peanuts* comic strips, Lucy is watching TV. Her little brother Linus goes over and says to her, "Lucy, you and I are brother and sister. We should get along better. We should love and respect and protect each other like the Bible says. That's the way it's supposed to be." Lucy totally ignores him. In the next frame, Linus goes outside and says the same thing to a brick wall: "Lucy, you and I are brother and sister. We should get along better. We should love and respect and protect each other like the Bible says. That's the way it's supposed to be." No response. Then Linus turns to Charlie Brown and says, "You're right Charlie Brown. Talking to Lucy is like talking to a brick wall."

A German Shepherd, a Doberman and a Cat went to the Pearly Gates.



God asked the Shepherd "What do you believe in?"

"I believe in loyalty, discipline and obedience to my master."

"Very good" God replied, "You sit at my right hand."

God asked the same question of the Doberman.

He replied, "I believe in strength, faithfulness and dedication to my master."

"Very good" God replied, "You sit at my left hand."

Then God asked the Cat the same Question.

The cat replied, "I believe you're sitting in my seat!"





THE LADIES CIRCLE MAY NEWS

April Bake Sale Fundraiser - A "Big" Success

- Thank you to all the ladies who brought in baked goods for the fundraiser.
- And, thank you to everyone for purchasing baked goods and for your support!

Ladies Circle Officer Nominations (2-year Term)

- Nominations for president have been extended. Contact Leena Meza or Marina McCoy for a Nominee Ballot.
- The newly elected officers will be announced in our May meeting on Saturday, May 8th.

MAY BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, May 8th at 9:30 am

In the Education Building

Call leaders will contact you prior to the meetings.

(Monthly meetings are on the 2nd Saturday of the month)

Note: In order to vote on any business item(s), we need at least 8 attendees at any monthly meeting.

MAY DEVOTION - "MADE TO PRAY"

from the mini-series "Woman of God-Wonderfully Made"
Contact Rhonda Hutchins, President, if you would like a copy of the past devotions.

We will continue to practice CDC guidelines with regard to COVID 19...wearing of masks and social distancing.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

- Craft Sale Fundraiser scheduled in May (Start collecting those handmade crafts now!)
- Tea Party scheduled for June

CONTINUE TO STAY SAFE & GOD BLESS!



MAY USHERS

**Tim Mangelsdorf
Duley Nelson
Jesse Mangelsdorf
Don Nomann**



MAY BIRTHDAYS

8 th	Bob Thone
10 th	John Henning
15 th	Shauna Nelson
17 th	Richard Blazer
25 th	Duley Nelson
27 th	Rhonda Hutchins
29 th	James Brotsch



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

11 th	Zeke & Laura Jarcik
15 th	James & Sarah Maczuga
31 st	Bob & Lynda Boyd
31 st	Vern & Annette Peglow

May 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Communion Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal	3 1:30 pm Bible Basics 6:00 pm Elders Mtg	4 8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class 6:30 pm Young Adults Bible Class	5	6 1:30 pm Bible Class	7	8 9:30 am Men's Bible Breakfast 9:30 am Ladies Circle Meeting
9 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal	10 1:30 pm Bible Basics 6:00 pm Council Mtg	11 8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class 6:30 pm Young Adults Bible Class	12	13 1:30 pm Bible Class	14	15
16 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Communion Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal	17 1:30 pm Bible Basics	18 8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class 6:30 pm Young Adults Bible Class	19	20 1:30 pm Bible Class	21	22
23 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal	24 1:30 pm Bible Basics	25 8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class 6:30 pm Young Adults Bible Class	26	27 1:30 pm Bible Class	28	29
30 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Communion Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal	31 1:30 pm Bible Basics					