

RAINBOW OF MOUNT HOPE

Jan/Feb/Mar 2021
Volume 22, Issue 1

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Christmas 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ—

***To this vale of tears, He comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in Heav'ns fair homes
We may reign in gladness.***

(Author Unknown)

The words of the hymn writer hold a special meaning as we enter our celebration in this Christmas season. 2020 began a new decade offering hope, joy, and great expectations. Instead it has released the pallor of Covid-19, a contentious political election, revealed a fractured nation over long standing issues, and released upon us isolation, masks, shutdowns, social-distancing and hard times. In many ways, 2020 can be rightly defined as a year of "**tears**" and "**sadness.**"

But this is Christmas. He who came still comes. He is no fair-weather God. "**To this vale of tears He comes. Here to serve** (you and me) **in** (our) **sadness.**" This is our Christmas joy! Our God comes to be with each of us. We are not alone. We are not without hope. He comes to assure us of that hope as He shows us the nail prints that mark His great sacrifice for us. He comes to comfort us "**that with Him in Heaven's fair homes we may reign in gladness.**" Oh, what great joy He brings us here, now, and in the life to come. So, come! Join Him at the manger. Greet and embrace your Savior and Lord.

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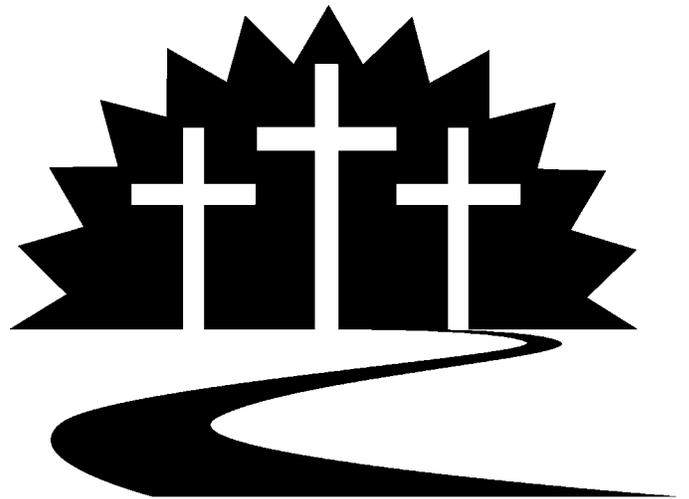
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He is our true joy which endures forever!

May the Lord bless you and yours in the coming new year. Above all, keep your eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of your faith. He is faithful and strong.

In the Christ Child's Name.

Pastor Paul Pollatz



HOLY WEEK—ASH WEDNESDAY
MARCH 28→EASTER APRIL 4

Mt. Hope Preschool News

Thanks to our church and preschool families for bringing in so many toys for the Toys for Tots program!

Thank you for all the prayers and support during this pandemic.

Here are a few reminders:

Jan 4, 8:30 am – School Resumes

Jan 18 – No School Staff Development

Feb 15 & 16 – No School Winter Break

March 29 – April 5 - Spring Break



I passed around the
corner and someone
saw my grin.
When he smiled, I
realized I had passed
my joy on to him.
I thought about my
smile, then I realized
its worth.

A single joyous smile could
travel round the earth.
So, when I smile for Christ's
sake, I'll not leave it
undetected.
I'll try to start an epidemic and
get the whole world
infected.

—Adapted from the Internet
(In these days of wearing masks,
you need to know that individuals
can see your smile in the eyes!)

Letter from a child

Dear God,
Is the minister a friend of yours, or do
you just know him through business?
Love, Morgan





Jan/Feb/Mar Birthdays

- Shawn Stamp, Jan 1
- Gloria Shumard, Jan 9
- Alex Haney, Jan 13
- Brian Brown, Jan 15
- Nancy Nolan, Jan 17
- Keri Driscoll, Jan 23
- Ryan Driscoll, Jan 24
- Robert Glover, Feb 1
- Cameron Driscoll, Feb 5
- Joshua Haney, Feb 13
- Sis Hamilton, Feb 15
- Ed Ripke, Feb 15
- Donna McCall, Feb 16
- Morgan Hudson, Feb 19
- Kayla Cox, Feb 21
- Ken Kosmalski, Feb 21
- Glenn Cairns, Feb 26
- Frank Pignanelli, Mar 3
- Marie Brown, Mar 10
- Pat Bates, Mar 16
- Sharon Rakich, Mar 18
- Agnes Zwarka, Mar 25

Jan/Feb/Mar Anniversaries

- Ken & Joyce Kosmalski, Jan 30
- Cheryl & Kim Toms, Feb 14
- (No Mar anniversaries)

Quilting Group

By: Bev Kero

We are in need of more people to join our group. You don't have to know how to quilt. If you can fasten pin and/or tie a knot, we can use your help. We will meet at 9:00 am the first Saturday of the month.



Dedication of the Quilts 10-26-2020



Official Acts

Memorial for **Frank Witte**

Missions:

Jim & Karen Bumgarner
Marilyn & Bill Switter
Gordon Witte
Jessie Witte
Phyllis Witte

General Fund:

Florence White
Janice & Kirk Vanheusen
Pamela Koitz

Memorial for Harry Witte Jr.

Technology Fund:

Phyllis & Janet Witte

Special dates to keep in mind

JANUARY

Circumcision and Name of Jesus, January 1
New Year's Day, January 1
Epiphany, January 6
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 18
National Sanctity of Human Life Sunday,
January 17

FEBRUARY

Black History Month
Groundhog Day, February 2
Ronald Reagan, Birthday February 6
Abraham Lincoln, Birthday February 12
Valentine's Day, February 14
Presidents' Day, February 15
Ash Wednesday, February 17
George Washington, Birthday February 22

MARCH

Daylight Savings Time Begins, March 14
Spring begins, March 20
HOLY WEEK, March 28→April 4 (Easter!)
Palm Sunday, March 28
Holy (Maundy) Thursday, April 1
Good Friday, April 2
EASTER, April 4

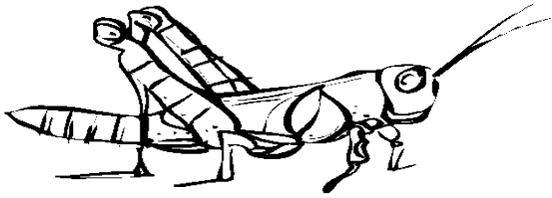


When the late trumpeter Louis Armstrong was interviewed after entertaining for some 70 years, he was asked how he had lasted so long? "I've got a thing I've always believed in," he explained. "The Lord will help the poor but not the poor and the lazy — so get in there and wail, daddy."

—The Reader's Diges



Thank you for holding on while this pandemic is happening. We want everyone to be safe and healthy. With God, We will get through this.



During a talk to children, a pastor was trying to explain the uniqueness of John the Baptist. He asked the children if they knew what kind of foods the rugged John ate? Apparently, the children had not yet learned that John had eaten locusts and wild honey, so the pastor said, "He ate wild honey and bugs. What do you think of that?" "Well," answered a perceptive little girl, "at least he had fiber."

• **It is the duty of all nations** to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits and humbly implore his protection and favor.
—George Washington

• **We must accept finite disappointment**, but we must never lose infinite hope.
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

• **The strength of a country** is the strength of its religious convictions.
—Calvin Coolidge

A resolution for the New Year

Let us resolve:

- First to attain the grace of silence;
- Second to deem all fault-finding that does no good a sin
- Third to practice the grace and virtue of praise.

—Harriet Beecher Stowe

The right facial expression

The gifted English preacher, Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892), was telling a group of young pastors that their facial expressions should be in harmony with the subject they were focusing on. "When you speak of heaven," he said, "let your face light up and be irradiated with a heavenly gleam. Let your eyes shine with reflected glory. And when you speak of hell ... well, then your everyday face will do."

The land of beginning again

Louisa Fletcher Tarkington in the first stanza of her poem "The Land of Beginning Again" wrote:

"I wish that there were some wonderful place called the Land of Beginning Again, Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches and all our poor selfish grief could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door and never be put on again."

That is a real possibility. We can begin again with God's help. The writer of Revelation 21:5 has Christ saying: "**I am making everything new!**" St. Paul affirms: "**... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Rainbow of Mount Hope

Reminders

Quilting: The first Saturday of the month at 9:00 am

Council Meeting: The second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm

Elder's Meeting: The second Tuesday of the month at 6:15 pm

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Service Times

Sunday 9:30 am

*Bible Study -
Right after Service*

Newsletter Deadline for Apr/May/June is Mar 22 at noon

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