



Our Savior Lutheran Church

June 2020

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FROM PASTOR ANNE

To God's holy people, called to be the church:

It could be worse.

During seminary, when I was engaged in Clinical Pastoral Education (professional chaplaincy training, required for all ELCA pastors), there were a number of phrases that we were strongly cautioned against using. Among these were the words 'it could be worse.' The reason for this is that those words fall flat in the face of suffering and lament. A person who is grieving a loss may take no comfort in the words, and may find the words instead to be nothing more than a painful platitude. Imagine saying to a suffering patient: "Yes, you lost your leg, but you could have lost your life." In other words, it could be worse.

The whole world is grieving right now – grieving the loss of a way of life that we had all come to take for granted. Even as you grieve your own losses, you as a follower of Jesus are called to be a source of comfort and hope to others who are grieving. Some of them may find comfort in meditating on the words "it could be worse," but others will most certainly not. How can you be a healing presence for a suffering world?

First, recognize that everyone grieves different things. A wise person has noted that we are not all in the same boat, though we all are in the same storm. For some of us, this pandemic is truly nothing more than an extended inconvenience; for others, who have suffered loss of job, loss of health, or loss of loved ones, it is something else entirely.

Second, recognize that everyone grieves differently. The pervasiveness of stressors in our midst are harder for some people to deal with than others. If someone melts down in a puddle of tears on hearing that their favorite salon has closed permanently, extend them the grace of honoring their grief. If someone is lashing out angrily at others who have a difference of opinion about the pros and cons of various public health recommendations, extend them the grace of honoring their anger, which is born perhaps of weariness or perhaps of frustration. If someone is clinging to what seems to you to be a bizarre medical or political conspiracy theory, extend them the grace of understanding that this may be a desperate attempt to find certainty in a fear-filled world where truth is

questioned and trust has eroded. None of this requires us to excuse or condone obvious sins of me-first self-centeredness or hatred, but I do invite you to double-down on love and compassion during these challenging days.

Finally, realize that you can't give what you don't have. Take care of yourself. Identify what you are grieving, and how. Find a way to draw closer to God – through prayer, through reading of God's holy word, through service to others, through contemplation of the wonders of the greening earth, and through relationship with others. As this season of Pentecost comes near, may you be filled with these gifts of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. May God bless you and make you a blessing to others.

It could be worse. It will be better!

Until we meet again, God be with you.

Pastor Anne Palma +



WORSHIP IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

Weekly worship and daily (Monday-Thursday) reflections and updates from the parish will be presented online until it is safer for us to meet again. The congregation's website has links to the videos – www.oursaviorlutherantf.org. You may also find links on the congregation's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OurSaviorLutheranChurchTwinFalls/> and our YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCySVH-RHc3_J39dGcawC5EQ?view_as=subscriber. Finally, the link is mailed to all members and friends of the congregation IF we have your e-mail address.



LUTHER HEIGHTS BIBLE CAMP NEWS

In a spirit of love for life, the board of Luther Heights Bible Camp has made the difficult decision to cancel all planned programming through August 2020.

Our Savior Lutheran Church continues to support Luther Heights Bible camp with use of our site for storage of items and vehicles; practical hands-on help for camp maintenance (thanks, Paul O!); and our regularly budgeted financial contributions which will continue.

Additionally, OSLC has supported the camp by providing scholarships for members and friends of the congregation to attend camp. Funds to support the camp have been raised through our famous annual Potato Bar and Auction. Noting that the congregation has \$1850 in funds left over from *last year's* Potato Bar and Auction, which had been intended for support of LHBC's ministries, your council voted on May 24 to forward these funds to LHBC now.

Check out the LHBC website, lutherheights.org regularly for information related to summer activities that can promote faith formation at home. Here is one: a prayer walk. Whatever your age, you may wish to use this prayer walk activity as a summer devotional practice!

Prayer Walk

Commonly at camp this is something people do solo ... with note cards of questions or prayers written on them as they walk and reflect. The goal is to reflect on one question for a time, before moving to the next question. Adjust as needed.

Questions as I journey and walk with a loving God today:

1. Where is a spot I can pray at home? Should I create a special prayer place I go to?
2. How does nature show God's love?
3. How does nature show signs of hope for the future?
4. If you could bring one person to camp who has not been, who would that be and why?
5. Think and reflect on a moment you saw God today?
6. Pray for a group of people you really think need to be uplifted right now.
7. Reflect on this verse: Romans 8:38-39 says ... 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
8. If you could teleport to anywhere right now ... where would it be and why?
9. Who is a person you look up to in leading a faith-centered life? Why? Can you send them a letter, call, or FaceTime in the next few days with them?
10. What is something you need prayer for right now? Lift that up to God now.

CHURCH TRIVIA

1. Martin Luther never intended to form a new denomination, especially one which would be named *after him*! What term did Luther prefer for the new reforming movement in the church?

- a. Protestant
- b. True Believers
- c. Evangelical
- d. catholic (small 'c')

Famous Lutherans include all except:

- a. Johann Sebastian Bach, the composer
- b. Jesus, the Christ
- c. Rick Steves, the American travel writer, author, and activist
- d. William H. Rehnquist, the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court
- e. Dale Earnhardt, Sr., the NASCAR race driver

The Rev. Kristen Kuempel is the bishop of our Northwest Intermountain Synod of the ELCA. How many other synod bishops are there?

- a. 44
- b. 54
- c. 64
- d. 74

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

YOUR COUNCIL IN ACTION – PLANS FOR THE WIKLUND BEQUEST

On March 3, members of the council and other interested leaders met with regional gift planner Beth Adams from the ELCA Foundation to explore options for wise and honorable use of the generous bequest of long-time member Toby Wiklund. Beth asked a number of detailed questions about the congregation's history, finances, stewardship practices and values in order to help us dream and act. Members of the council left that meeting saying "Wow. I think we have a 'plan A' for this project!"

Forward progress was delayed for a time due to the disruption of the pandemic; however, your council met on Sunday evening, May 24, via ZOOM, and they commend to the congregation this initial plan for use of the bequest:

A biblical tithe of the first-fruits of this gift. This means giving ten percent of the funds (\$11,600) to ministries outside the congregation.

Establishment of a rainy-day fund, to assure that the congregation has several months' operating expenses in reserve in the event of unforeseen situations, such as a precipitous decline in income or a large unbudgeted but essential capital expense. (\$29,400)

Pre-payment of some of the principal owed on the building's mortgage, to hasten the date of retiring this debt completely. (\$25,000)

Establishment of mission endowment fund, to provide ministry funds in perpetuity. (\$50,000)

The council is proceeding with detailed inquiry about the precise steps required to deal with this unprecedented gift to the congregation. Meanwhile, you are invited to dream about specific directions (for example, what ministries our first-fruits tithe might support, and whether you are interested in helping to establish an endowment fund for the congregation). One council member remarked "We should spend this money in a way that would make Toby smile!" I have spoken with Pat Bremer, Toby's widow, and she is pleased with this preliminary plan.

-Pastor Anne +

READ THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

This new year, 2020, may be the year that you read God's word in its entirety. Are you up for the challenge?

If you read three or four chapters daily, you can finish the Bible by the end of this year!

Here is a list of suggested readings for the month of June:

June 1 - Job 2-30
June 2 - Job 31-34
June 3 - Job 35-38
June 4 - Job 39-42
June 5 - Psalms 1-8
June 6 - Psalms 9-17
June 7 - Psalms 18-21
June 8 - Psalms 22-27
June 9 - Psalms 28-33
June 10 - Psalms 34-37
June 11 - Psalms 38-42
June 12 - Psalms 43-49
June 13 - Psalms 50-55
June 14 - Psalms 56-61
June 15 - Psalms 62-68
June 16 - Psalms 69-72
June 17 - Psalms 73-77
June 18 - Psalms 78-80
June 19 - Psalms 81-88
June 20 - Psalms 89-94
June 21 - Psalms 95-103
June 22 - Psalms 104-106
June 23 - Psalms 107-111
June 24 - Psalms 112-118
June 25 - Psalm 119
June 26 - Psalms 120-133
June 27 - Psalms 134-140
June 28 - Psalms 141-150
June 29 - Proverbs 1-3
June 30 - Proverbs 4-7



Luther Heights: May 23



Luther Heights: May 25



From the Secretary's Desk:

There is something to be said for this time of being quarantined. Since the office is "officially" closed, the Secretary gets to go through old records, boxes, books, pictures and other "stuff" that has been collecting dust in the basement. Some of it needs to be organized for archival reasons. Other stuff is just really interesting and fun to see who, what, where and when this congregation developed into what it is today.

Found in the above boxes so far:

Deeds for Lot 16, Block 40 in Twin Falls Townsite—Deed #1 dated May 17, 1904 through Deed # 77 dated October 19, 1944.

Uncashed checks

Cash left in a bankers bag. (No big \$\$\$, just petty cash.)

A still working US Bank solar calculator (circa 2004)

Books belonging to a former Pastor

And a receipt for 2 combination changes, 20 duplicate keys #'s "21-40" and 2 duplicate Pastor keys.

What other goodies will I come across?

To be continued.

CHURCH TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Following the practice of naming a "heresy" after its leader, the name Lutheran originated as a derogatory term used by Johann Eck during the Leipzig Debate in July 1519. Rather than "Lutheran," Martin Luther preferred to describe the reformation as "evangelical," which is derived from the Greek word meaning "good news." (Source: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2013/04/25-interesting-facts/>)
2. Aha! Despite the imaginations of some beginning confirmation students, Jesus was in fact Jewish and not Lutheran! The rest of the folks on the list, however, are or were Lutherans!
3. The ELCA is comprised of 65 separate synods; therefore, 64 other bishops join our own Bishop Kuempel in leadership in the ELCA.

2020 Census:

Reminder—Have you completed your 2020 census?

If you haven't yet you can complete it on line at my2020Census.gov or by phone at the toll-free number 1-844-330-2020. Federal Funding for states and counties is based on the census.

Good News!, the 2020 Census is still hiring! Census Taker positions are scheduled to currently start in June/July with a last day worked around the end of October. It is simple to apply at 2020census.gov/jobs online. The pay rate in Idaho is \$16.00 per hour and \$0.575 per mile with flexible hours to work around your schedule and no resume needed.

Youth News:

GRACE WILLIAMS INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MAY 5



Give thanks and praise to God for giving Grace everything she needs to earn this distinction – loving parents and siblings, dedicated teachers, a good mind and a will to work hard!

Keep Grace and all students everywhere in prayer as they enter a summer different in so many ways than any summer they've ever had before...

... and pray for educators, that they be given perseverance and creativity to teach in a new way.

Council Highlights

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

Your council met by ZOOM on Monday evening May 24. After having extensively prepared for the council meeting by reading guidance from experts in public health, the church, and the government, the council is convening a re-gathering working group to define the next specific actions and protocols for the day when we will begin to gather again in person.

The council has identified a number of people to serve on this working group, which will advise the council. If you are interested in participating in this working group, please contact council president Dave Nelson or the church office.

Worship will continue on-line at least until we begin to gather again, and we hope to identify a cadre of people who are willing to learn how to livestream worship for those who remain at home even after we begin to gather again.

Until we meet again, God be with you!

Remember In Prayer.....Donna Erickson, Steven Erickson, Jack Harding, Tamra Helms, Dorothy Kerbs, Pattie Mattlin, Marge Mayer, Connie Miller, Joan Stokesberry, Julie Allen, Marilyn Backstrom, Wayne Hawkins, Brian Conrad, Greg Heidemann, the family of Raymond Dey, all those affected by Covid-19, all the care providers and first responders.



VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION

ONLINE | GRUVEO | 6.2.2020 | 10 AM

SERVICES

NEEDS

VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT YOU
CAN DO

DURING THIS INFORMATION SESSION NOEMI JUAREZ, OUR OUTREACH AND EDUCATION COORDINATOR, WILL TALK ABOUT THE SERVICES WE OFFER AND HOW YOU CAN HELP STOP THE CYLCE.

PLEASE SIGN UP BY FILLING OUT THE FORM ATTACHED.

SEE YOU THERE!!

Visit the website at vavmv.org

SCRIPTURE TEXTS FOR JUNE

	June 7 Holy Trinity	June 14	June 21	June 28
First Reading	Genesis 1:1-2:4 _a	Exodus 19:2-8 _a	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Jeremiah 28:5-18
Psalm	Psalm 8	Psalm 100	Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18	Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Second Reading	2 Corinthians 13: 11-13	Romans 5:1-8	Romans 6:1 _b -11	Romans 6:12-23
Gospel	Matthew 28:16-20	Matthew 9:9-10:8 [9-23]	Matthew 10:24-39	Matthew 10:40-42
Liturgical Color	White	Green	Green	Green
Hymn of the Day	<i>Come, join the dance of Trinity</i>	<i>The Son of God, our Christ</i>	<i>Let us ever walk with Jesus</i>	<i>All Are Welcome</i>

A HYMN FOR THESE TIMES – “O GOD, AS WE PAUSE”

O God, as we pause from our usual ways,
as millions stay home, as we count passing days,
may we learn what matters — what really has worth.
May we seek your reign as we live here on earth.

May we find your blessings in small, common things;
may we learn the joy that community brings.
In loving our neighbors, in stopping to pray,
may we know your presence in each passing day.

God, may we reflect on a world that has changed —
a world where our values have been rearranged.
For those who once thought they could stand by themselves
now value the workers who restock the shelves.

As greed and injustice are being laid bare,
may we build a nation that's loving and fair.
God, give us the courage to change what we can,
to work for the justice that's part of your plan.

So, turn us around, Lord, to make your world new;
May we seek, in all things, to first follow you.
In change and in sorrow may we seek your reign.
O God, in our pausing, restore us again!

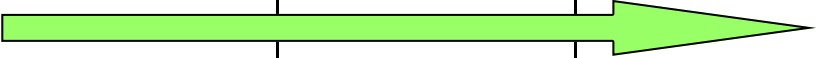

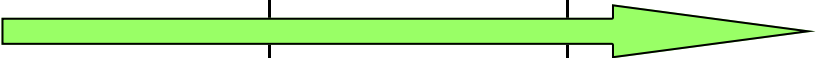
Tune: Traditional Welsh hymn, in John Robert's *Caniadau y Cyssegr (Songs of the Sanctuary)*, 1839
("Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise") ([MIDI](#))

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com/

SAINTS IN SERVICE

Sunday Worship is posted on-line at www.oursaviorlutheran.org. You will be notified about a return-to-worship date as soon as a decision is made.

	June 7 Holy Trinity	June 14	June 21	June 28
Altar Guild for the month				
Greeters				
Ushers				
Audio-Visual				
Accompanist				
Assisting Minister				
Acolyte(s)				
Reader				
Refreshments for Coffee Hour				
Offering Deacons				

June

*Here are dates of Lesser Festivals and Commemorations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 *Justin, martyr at Rome, c. 165 Pastor on Vacation thru 6/7	2	3 *The Martyr of Uganda, 1886; John XXIII, Bishop of Rome 9:30 am Bible Study via Zoom	4	5 *Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, Missionary to Germany, martyr 754	6
7 *Seattle, chief of Duwamish Confederacy, 1866 Worship via YouTube 11:00 am Coffee Hour via Zoom	8 Pastor Returns	9 *Columba, 597; Aidan, 651; Bede, 735; renewers of the church 10:30 am Calendar Meeting	10 9:30 am Bible Study via Zoom	11 *Barnabas, Apostle 10:30 am Worship Committee via Telephone Conference 1:30 pm Clergy Text via Zoom	12	13
14 *Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, 379; Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, c. 385; Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, c. 389; Macrina, teacher, 379 Worship via YouTube 11:00 am Coffee Hour via Zoom	15	16	17 9:30 am Bible Study via Zoom 7pm Council	18 1:30 pm Clergy Text via Zoom	19	20
21 Father's Day  *Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, 1931 Worship via YouTube 11:00 am Coffee Hour via Zoom	22	23	24 *John The Baptist 9:30 am Bible Study via Zoom	25 *Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530 1:30 pm Clergy Text via Zoom	26	27 *Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, 444
28 *Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyon, c. 202 Worship via YouTube 11:00 am Coffee Hour via Zoom	29 *Peter and Paul, Apostles	30				



Worship with Holy Communion is Celebrated
Every Sunday
At
9:30 AM

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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