



Our Savior Lutheran Church

August 2020

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FROM PASTOR ANNE

Dear children of God,

Do you have a favorite Bible verse? Perhaps you have several! What about a favorite *book* of the Bible? Early in my seminary years, I took a course on the synoptic Gospels. (The 'synoptics' are Matthew, Mark and Luke). The professor asked us to write an essay about which synoptic Gospel was our favorite, and why. As a beginning Bible student, I had heard the tradition that Luke was a physician, and so I imagined that his words might resonate with me best. During the course of the semester, though, savoring the nuances of each of these inspired theological masterpieces, I settled on the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew is my favorite, I decided. For the life of me now, as an ordained minister of word and sacrament, I can't tell you why. I don't remember! Matthew's Gospel is profoundly beautiful. But if you read it carefully, you will find it confusing. And perhaps terrifying.

Early last month, the lectionary began to bring us parables of Jesus from the Gospel according to Matthew, and we'll continue hearing them on many Sundays between now and the end of the church year on November 22. Many of the parables are nonthreatening, if enigmatic. They usually start with the phrase 'The kingdom of heaven is like...' These may puzzle us, but they don't petrify us. But there is also frequent reference to end-times and the certainty of a perfectly righteous judgment for all people. The phrase 'weeping and gnashing of teeth,' shows up six separate times in Matthew's version of the good news. It shows up only once in Luke and not at all in Mark or John. Matthew also references 'outer darkness,' a phrase none of the other gospels use.

Throughout Christian history, there have been different emphases in sharing the good news. In Martin Luther's time, 'fear of hell' was a dominant theme. This fear was sometimes exploited by the church in order to gain worldly power. The church claimed authority to determine who would be 'saved' and who would not. Emperors, fearful of eternal perdition, knelt down before popes. Fear and threats, taken to the extreme, were misused, and the message of Jesus Christ was

(Continued on Page 2)

distorted. I can see how selected passages from Matthew's Gospel may have come in handy to those who capitalized on fear of hell.

More recently, many churches, including in the Lutheran tradition, have de-emphasized the notion of eternal judgment and instead promoted God's forgiveness, mercy, grace and love. I think that this is the right direction to go, promoting 'hope of heaven' (including the kingdom of heaven on earth) over 'fear of hell.' I think it is a truer and fuller revelation of God's nature; however, even this message can be misused. Might we sometimes tend to gloss over those difficult passages, especially in Matthew's Gospel, that place in Jesus' own mouth words about an eternal and unquenchable fire? In doing so, might we deny the serious nature of sin and evil – our own and that of others?

What shall an honest Christian do with these Scriptures? I am not sure there is one single right answer to this question. But I believe a wrong answer is to ignore them. A better answer might be to dwell with them, asking God to use them to work faith and understanding in you according to the divine will, God's own will. Ask that God's will be done in your life. C.S. Lewis wrote a work of fantasy called The Great Divorce, imagining what heaven and hell might be like and what will be the eternal destiny of humankind. He wrote, "There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Thy will be done.' All that are in Hell, choose it..... No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. To those who knock it is opened."

Could hell, in the end, consist of God saying to us, 'thy will be done'?

May this be your daily prayer to God: "Thy will be done." It is the best prayer I know.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Anne +

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.

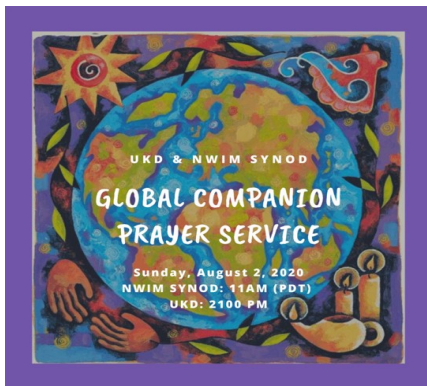


WORSHIP LIVE WITH LUTHERANS IN TANZANIA

Global Companion Prayer Service

August 2, 2020

12:00pm Mountain Daylight Time · 9:00 PM Eastern Africa Time



The world has been shaken by disease, protests, and unrest. People are showing signs of anxiety, frustration and distress. Economies, communities, and families are suffering.

The global pandemic also delayed plans for a delegation of 20 from the NWIM Synod to visit our beloved brothers and sisters in the Ulanga Kilombero Diocese, Tanzania. August 2 is the day we would have gathered in person to bless and celebrate the new assembly hall.

In the midst of these troubles, to whom do we turn? This prayer service will unite us in God's grace and mercy. Together, we will recognize the anxiety in the world that stresses our relationships and call for God's hope, comfort, peace and blessing to be with Christ's people through these long and difficult days.

Zoom event details will be shared with the congregation by e-mail.



CHURCH TRIVIA

1. Which one of these is not considered "word of God" according to the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

- a. Pastor Anne's sermons
- b. The Lutheran Confessions (Augsburg Confession, Formula of Concord, etc.)
- c. The Holy Bible
- d. Jesus Christ

2. As more white Christians are answering the call to confront and renounce the sin of systemic racism, the term 'white privilege' is becoming more familiar. Which one of these is not an example of white privilege?

- a. I do not have to educate my children to be aware of systemic racism for their own daily physical protection.
- b. I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed.
- c. I never lacked for food or other necessities while I was growing up.
- d. I am never asked to speak for all the people of my racial group.
- e. I can choose bandages in "flesh" color and have them more or less match my skin.
- f. I can travel alone or with my spouse without expecting embarrassment or hostility in those who deal with us.
- g. If a police officer pulls me over, I can be sure I haven't been singled out because of my race.

3. When Pastor Moses Nwaka of our companion synod, the Ulanga Kilombero Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, visited us in Twin Falls last year, he greeted us by calling us 'Rafiki.' In addition to being the name of a character in the Lion King, what does Rafiki mean?

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - MINISTRY GOES ON!



Is the needle mightier than the pandemic? Ask Margie Rahr, of the OSLC Altar Guild. Last year Margie oversaw the construction of new white paraments and a chasuble to enhance our Sunday worship. This year she is fashioning two funeral palls from exquisite materials. A pall, placed over the coffin or urn during worship, is a reminder of our baptismal identity as children of God. [Other items such as flowers, flags or memorabilia may be upon the coffin before or after worship.] The use of the pall also signifies that all are equal in the eyes of God.

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 August:

August 1 - Isaiah 64:-66

August 17 - Jeremiah 47-48

August 2 - Jeremiah 1-3

August 18 - Jeremiah 49

August 3 - Jeremiah 4-5

August 19 - Jeremiah 50

August 4 - Jeremiah 6-8

August 20 - Jeremiah 51-52

August 5 - Jeremiah 9-11

August 21 - Lamentations 1-2

August 6 - Jeremiah 12-14

August 22 - Lamentations 3-5

August 7 - Jeremiah 15-17

August 23 - Ezekiel 1-4

August 8 - Jeremiah 18-21

August 24 - Ezekiel 5-8

August 9 - Jeremiah 22-24

August 25 - Ezekiel 9-12

August 10 - Jeremiah 25-27

August 26 - Ezekiel 13-15

August 11 - Jeremiah 28-30

August 27 - Ezekiel 16-17

August 12 - Jeremiah 31-32

August 28 - Ezekiel 18-20

August 13 - Jeremiah 33-36

August 29 - Ezekiel 21-22

August 14 - Jeremiah 37-39

August 30 - Ezekiel 23-24

August 15 - Jeremiah 40-43

August 31 - Ezekiel 25-27

August 16 - Jeremiah 44-46

AGING AND SENIOR CARE RESOURCES

Caring.com is a leading senior resource for family caregivers seeking information and support as they care for aging parents, spouses and other loved ones. They have been featured by AARP, The Administration for Community Living, The National Legal Resource Center, and Forbes, as well as referenced by many government agencies and organizations across the internet.

If you would like more information you may visit their website at <https://www.caring.com/senior-living/assisted-living/idaho>.

From the Secretary's Desk:



Can you believe it? It has been 4 months since we've gathered together in our building to worship. But it is has afforded this secretary to clean out cupboards, files and other assorted places.

As of this writing, all of the mailboxes have been cleaned out, including the dust. If you are looking for anything in particular that was in your box, it now lives in a baggy with your name on it in a box on the counter in the church office.

If you would like to have a mailbox in the Narthex, please let me know. I will put your name on a box and return your items to your box.

More Feedback from July, 1998 Meeting for New Facility:

Good acoustics and sound system with video capability, large screen projection.

Good sized, permanently fixed wooden cross centrally located on the wall in back of an altar.

Space for placement of banners and flowers.

Air conditioned sanctuary.

Lighter woods encouraging a cheerful atmosphere. Natural lighting.

Stained glass depicting sacraments and/or Biblical themes.

It seems that most of these have been attained in our building to date.

Ecumenical Joke posted from redheadrev:

During an ecumenical meeting, someone rushed in shouting, "The building is on fire!" The Methodists gathered in the corner and prayed. The Baptists cried, "Where is the water?" The Lutherans nailed a notice to the door, declaring the fire was evil. The Pentecostals and charismatics praised God for the blessing that fire brings. The Calvinists quietly said, "God has predestined the fire." The Presbyterians appointed a chairperson to appoint a committee to look into the matter. And the Church secretary grabbed a fire extinguisher and put out the fire. (Source unknown.)

THANK YOU:

From Luther Heights Bible Camp—Thank you so much for your incredible support of the ministry of Luther Heights Bible Camp. Your monthly financial partnership and additional blessing of the money for camper scholarship has a huge impact on helping us create ways for people to engage in new ways this season and make needed property improvements as we prepare for 2021. Your support means so much.

Kelly Preboski, Executive Director.

YOUTH NEWS:

We are still accepting donations for the Youth's Yard Sale . The date to be determined. One room is pretty full and we are looking for an overflow space at the church for donations that may come in.



Holy Communion and Evening Prayer



Join us for a live-by-ZOOM service of Vespers with Eucharist on Wednesday, August 12, at 7 PM. Until the day we can meet our Lord again in the sanctuary, let Him meet us in our homes with the gifts of bread and wine, his true body and blood! A link for the service will be sent out by e-mail.

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.

We also remember Alice Raidiger upon the death of her husband Bert Wesley Raidiger, Jr. on July 27. Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon him. May God comfort Alice and all who loved Bert with the sure and certain promise of the resurrection to eternal life for all who trust in Jesus Christ. A memorial service for the family is anticipated on August 1 in the OSLC pavilion.

LUGALA LUTHERAN HOSPITAL · COVID19 RELIEF APPEAL

Please help our friends in the Ulanga Kilombero Diocese and the Lugala Lutheran Hospital in Tanzania prepare for COVID19. The hospital perpetually operates on a very tight budget, and funds are very limited for purchasing supplies. Hospital administrators compiled a list of needed supplies —PPE, oxygen masks, and oxygen concentrators—totaling \$15,000 in value. The Global Mission Committee of the Northwest Intermountain Synod approved sending \$5,000 we had in reserve for the hospital, which nearly depletes the fund.

We are seeking gifts to restore the Lugala Hospital funds, with the immediate need being \$10,000 for purchase of COVID19 supplies and equipment.

You can [donate online here](#), or mail a check **earmarked for Lugala Hospital** to:

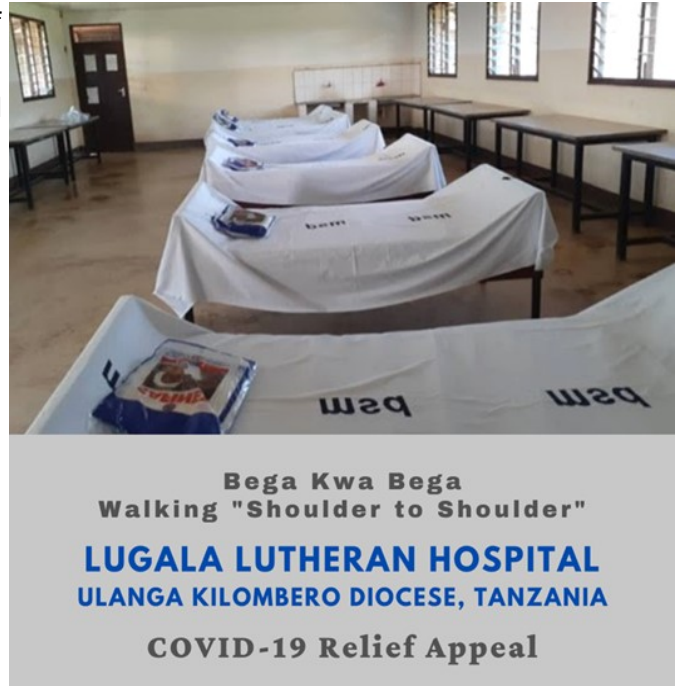
Northwest Intermountain Synod

245 E 13th Ave, Suite A

Spokane, WA 99202

Asante sana! Thank you very much!

[Global Mission - Lugala Hospital Appeal](#)



SCRIPTURE TEXTS FOR AUGUST

	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
First Reading	Isaiah 55:1-5	1 Kings 19:9-18	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	Isaiah 51:1-6	Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm	Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21	Psalm 85:8-13	Psalm 67	Psalm 138	Psalm 26:1-8
Second Reading	Romans 9:1-5	Romans 10:5-15	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Romans 12:1-8	Romans 12:9-21
Gospel	Matthew 14:13-21	Matthew 14:22-33	Matthew 15: [10-20] 21-28	Matthew 16:13-20	Matthew 16:21-28
Liturgical Color	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green

VOTE

A Christian might wonder, “what is the best form of government?” Holy Scripture gives no specific endorsement of any particular political system as we know them today. Certainly, the concept of a federal democratic republic such as we enjoy would have been far from the minds of the people who followed Jesus and the people who lived in Martin Luther’s day.

Many of us, in the third century of our nation’s history, consider our right and responsibility to participate in government to be important, and as Christians, we can consider our act of voting to be a holy act. How is it holy? In informing ourselves and casting our votes for what we believe to be the common good, we can show our love of neighbor in a tangible way. Following the lofty words of the Constitution, we aim to ‘form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and ensure the blessings of liberty...’ Even though we know that all nations rise and fall (none lasts forever), and that all forms of government suffer from corruption (some more, some less), and even though we hold our trust in earthly governments only lightly even as we cling heartily in trust to God, we and our forebears in this nation have accomplished a lot of good, through our votes.

If you are eligible to vote, please reflect on how your decision to vote can be an act of Christian love for neighbor. The official Idaho website, www.idahovotes.gov, allows you to check your voter registration, register to vote, update your registration information, and request an absentee ballot.

Holy Scripture endorses no particular form of government. Scripture doesn’t give us a clue whether God prefers monarchies to federal democratic republics or any other system; however, God’s will for humanity is made clear throughout the Old and New Testaments. God commands love of neighbor, which is another name for justice.

CHURCH TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. B. The Lutheran Confessions, published first in 1580 as a collection of documents from the first 50 years or so of Lutheranism, are considered faithful expositions of Christian theology, but they are not considered 'word of God.' According to the ELCA constitution, the Holy Bible is the written word of God, the word proclaimed is the good news shared in preaching and evangelization, and Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate. (Note that the word 'word' is capitalized when referring to Jesus!)
2. C. White people may suffer many difficulties in their lives, including poverty, difficult childhoods, and other obstacles, and still enjoy 'white privilege.' It is important to remember that "White privilege doesn't mean your life hasn't been hard. It just means the color of your skin isn't one of the things that makes it harder." (most of the responses were adapted from <https://projecthumanities.asu.edu/content/white-privilege-checklist>)
3. Rafiki is the Swahili word for friend.

'TILL WE MEET AGAIN

The world is now many months into the pandemic of our lifetimes, and we as a congregation have been apart in body for more than 130 days.

Regional epidemiologic trends show that the pandemic is far from over. It is a certainty that better days are coming. It is absolutely uncertain when this will happen. "No one knows the day or the hour..."

Your council has been reviewing the question of re-gathering each month, and each month the right answer has seemed to be 'not yet.' It is hard not to be together in person for worship. And it may be harder to not know when our separation will end.

Honest emotions of fear, anger and sadness may rise in us. Sustaining our faith in these troubling times will require much more than an hour of worship on Sunday mornings. When our in-person Sabbath gatherings are not possible, our other spiritual practices keep our hearts and our hope focused on God.

What is feeding your soul right now? Are you paying more attention to a daily devotional booklet or website – and if so has the new you discovered new revelations of God's love? Has your prayer life taken a new and different direction – perhaps you are listening more and speaking less, or you are led to pray for people and situations you've never prayed for before? Are you more deeply aware of God's presence in the mundane tasks of daily life, so that even the act of washing dishes becomes a sacred task? Do you sing in the shower now? Has a new opportunity to love and serve your neighbor presented itself?

Gathering together at 464 Carriage Lane North is one way to keep the Sabbath holy, and it is one that we have cherished. Until we meet again, I pray that God will use this season of your life to strengthen your faith and increase your joy at the gifts God has given, so that the body of Christ here at Our Savior Lutheran Church may come out of this crisis as more faithful and useful servants of our Lord Jesus.

August

*Dates of Lesser Festivals and Commemorations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 am Worship on You Tube 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship via Zoom	3	4 10:30 am Calendar Meeting	5 9:30 am Bible Study via Zoom	6 1:30 pm Clergy Text Study via Zoom	7	8 *Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), 1221
9 9:30 am Worship on You Tube 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship via Zoom	10 *Lawrence, deacon, martyr, 258	11 *Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, 1253	12 9:30 am Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 pm Vespers with Eucharist via Zoom	13 *Florence Nightingale, 1910; Clara Maass, 1901; renewers of society 9:30 am Worship Committee Meeting via Telephone 1:30 pm Clergy Text Study via Zoom	14 *Maximilian Kolbe, 1941; Kaj Munk, 1944; martyrs	15 *Mary, Mother of Our Lord
16 9:30 am Worship on You Tube 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship via Zoom	17 	18	19 9:30 am Bible Study via Zoom	20 *Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153 1:30 pm Clergy Text Study via Zoom	21 Newsletter Deadline	22
23 9:30 Worship on You Tube 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship via Zoom	24 *Bartholomew, Apostle	25	26 9:30 am Bible Study via Zoom	27 1:30 pm Clergy Text Study via Zoom	28 *Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, 430; Moses the Black, monk, martyr, c.400	29
30 9:30 am Worship on You Tube 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship via Zoom	31					



Worship is Celebrated

Every Sunday

At

9:30 AM

Via You Tube

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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