



The Roadrunner

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



DESERT REIGN

Volume 76 No. 4

April 2020

A pastor's thoughts on the kingdom of God.

Dear friends in Christ,

Saying goodbye has challenges under the best circumstances, and these are not the best circumstances. It was my hope that we would have the grace of eight weeks to say goodbye, eating and drinking, sharing and laughing, as we found closure in our relationships. I am very sorry that we will not have the closure we would desire.

These last weeks have challenged all of our world, and we have all had to learn new skills. Using technology to create community gathering space is in some ways unsatisfying, but very necessary in this time of global pandemic. It will be quite some time before communities of faith can gather as they have in the past. And when we are able to gather again, there will likely be grief in our gathering for those we have lost during this time. And there will be grief for you and I, that we could not embrace for one last farewell. But when that time comes, when we are able to grieve our loss, may it be matched with the joy of the time we spent together and new thing to which God is calling all of us.

This time may seem fallow and dead but there is a new season of ministry and life ahead. In the same way that the thaw of Spring leads from winter to the crops of summer (in many parts of the world), God is leading the church into something new. The church in the future will not look like the church of the past. Now that must be glaringly obvious. Whatever the church looks like in the future we can trust that God will be there, as He has always been, present and leading, ever forward.

While there might be some possibility of coming back at some point, to say goodbye, this is not an ideal way for Karin and I to leave Tucson. We love you and have been loved by you in return. Our time together has been meaningful and we are changed because of it. I'm sure you are too.

The same Bible passages I used in last month's article speak strongly for me still, though differently because of the way our world has changed in a month. Through centuries of Paul's voice to the early church in Philippi, these are the words of my prayer and encouragement for you in this time...

"I am confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Phil. 1:6)

My final Sunday leading worship with you will still be Easter Sunday, April 12th, and shortly after that you will start the interim process. And it will likely still be many weeks until community gatherings for worship are advised. Doing the wise thing is not always the easy thing. But even in this time of social distancing there are tremendous examples of what it means to be a caring community. God is strengthening us as community by members reaching out to each other, and caring for their neighbors. In this time, we are drawing closer in community, even while keeping our distance. I know that God is with us as we go forward.

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:7)

Take good care of yourselves and each other, in Jesus' name.

Peaceinallplaces,<><
Pastor Jeff



Council Corner

March, 2020

During this time of change and transition at Our Saviour's and beyond, we encourage the congregation to stay connected with our church and with each other. For the time being worship services will be moving online, and we'll continue to make decisions regarding the format for worship one week at a time. Please watch for announcements regarding plans for worship and other church events in the coming weeks. As long as we are unable to gather for worship in-person we'll need to put a few things on hold, including plans for a send-off for Pastor Jeff, events to celebrate Our Saviour's 75th Anniversary, and the Congregational Meeting to determine the next steps for paying off our remaining loan. The changes in the world around us have also slowed the process for filling the Youth Leader position. But please be assured that we'll refocus our attention on these issues again as soon as it is practical to do so.



In the meantime, we continue to move forward where we can. Some exciting news is that Pastor Mateo Chavez will begin serving as our new part-time visitation pastor by the end of March; please help extend a warm welcome to him and his family. And the Council will continue working with Bishop Hutterer to plan for the future of OSLC, including making arrangements for an interim pastor and beyond. We will keep the congregation informed as details are finalized. Some more good news is that our finances remain healthy at this time, but we do ask for the congregation's help in remembering to either mail offerings to the church office or arrange for automatic online giving. We have added a blue button to the top right corner of our website to make online giving as convenient as possible.

Even though these are difficult times, we remain in God's love and care. Please join us in caring for each other, praying for our church and community, and wishing Pastor Jeff well as he continues in his ministry.

**Report respectfully submitted,
OLSC Church Council**

Dear Members of OSLC—

These days we're feeling the challenges of being unable to gather together as a congregation in the usual way. It's difficult to have so many of our usual plans and activities put on hold, and to be unable even spend time in fellowship with each other. The unusual circumstances we're all living in have also made it a real challenge to plan a festive send-off for Pastor Jeff and his family as God has called him to continue his ministry elsewhere. The planning committee built in some flexibility and was ready with a Plan A, a Plan B, and even a back-up Plan C should we be able to reconvene as a congregation at any time before Pastor Jeff's last Sunday with us. As it has become increasingly clear that we likely won't convene again by Easter Sunday, though, we've had to look at still another option. At the suggestion of Bishop Hutterer, Pastor Jeff and Karin may return to Our Saviour's at some point in the coming weeks or months for a proper celebration and opportunity for goodbyes and good wishes. Of course we don't know quite when that will be, but when it is safe for us to convene again for worship and activities we'll be able to finalize a plan and share it with you. We look forward to celebrating Pastor Jeff's time at Our Saviour's sometime soon, and in the meantime, hope you will join us in praying for Pastor Jeff and Karin as well as our congregation during this time of transition.

With kind regards—

Kathy DeVinney

Amy Fatzinger

Pam Hardman

Bonnie Phelps

Gloria Schmidt



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News From the Office

By Kathryn Barrera,
Parish Administrator

Hello Everyone!

He is Risen! Happy Easter Everyone! This month has a lot of exciting new things in store for us. It does come with the sadness of Pastor Jeff's final Sunday with us. He has been a wonderful pastor and leader. Although we are sad to see him go we are also very excited for his future in California. God will use him in great ways and we wish him and Karin all the best.

That's all for now.
Have a wonderful month!

- Kathryn

