

From our Pastor



Gracious Heavenly Father, we ask your blessings on all who labor in every vocation You have provided. Remind us of the blessings of work. Be with all who are unemployed or unable to work any longer. Give us hearts and hands of justice for all who labor under unsafe and unfair conditions. Give us hearts and hands of justice for all who are concerned about their future. Above all, keep our hearts and minds on the saving work of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

The official/unofficial end to summer? Where was summer? Did I miss it? Didn't we all? With canceled vacations and trips that couldn't happen. Family reunions that didn't take place. Ball games that weren't collectively watched. 2020 goes down as a less than fantastic summer.

But, here we are: Labor Day Weekend already. This year, perhaps more than most in memory, we are mindful of those who can not find work. We are mindful of those who have had their jobs unceremoniously ended.

We are, however, called to be more than mindful. Our faith demands action. We are to “put feet to our prayers”, as the saying goes. Meaning, we need to extend our generosity beyond our own walls to help others who find themselves in need. Working with others in the ELCA, a portion of our financial resources are brought together to help the poorest and most vulnerable. The money you give is hard-earned, and yet you share. Thank you for generous hearts and for remembering your offerings to St. John so that we can share them with those in need. Moving our hearts, minds, and feet is part of a living faith. We do not labor in vain, when we share what our labor brings.

1 Corinthians 15:58

My siblings, remain strong in the faith. Don't let anything move you.

Always give yourselves completely to the work of the Lord.

Because you belong to the Lord, you know that

you do not labor in vain.





Prayers for those grieving:

The family & friends of Joey

The family & friends of Violet

Prayers for those needing renewed health:

Bruce, Sue, Margaret, Glenice, Jarl

Other Prayers:

For patience, kindness, and compassion to reign in all our hearts, homes, and communities

For students, teachers, and parents

Email your prayer requests to: churchoffice@green-church.org

with the subject line: Prayer Request

Scripture Readings

September 06, 2020

Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law.

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

DRIVE IN WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN

2ND & 4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT DRIVE IN WORSHIP WILL BE **SEPTEMBER 13TH**

Some things to know: out of our love for each other, we will maintain physical distancing that health professionals are telling us is so important. We love you and want to see you, but please, if you have any COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, etc.) worship online via our Facebook Page: [St. John Facebook Page](#)

Drive-in Worship at St. John on September 13th at 10 AM!

Update on Worship Services

“It is not as simple as unlocking the doors and letting people back into the building.”

St. John has a safety task force in place to work on the steps to move us back to in-person worship as soon as we can safely do so. We have several guidelines to follow and benchmarks to meet before we return to in-person worship safely.

The Minnesota ELCA Bishops have urged congregations to practice radical love of the neighbor in being patient instead of surrendering to our own needs and the desire to resume normalcy.

The desire to be together for worship is strong and natural. God has made us to be in relationship with others. But, the care of neighbor mandates that we be extra cautious.

The Ecumenical Consultation on Worship during a Pandemic has given congregations some helpful information. They begin their report:

“Churches face a challenge: how will we resume worship gatherings in person while the pandemic is still with us? A care-filled response to that challenge is much more than unlocking the church doors and inviting all to come, sit, sing, and greet one another as had been our custom. We know the dangers posed and the risks taken if we were to do that. We care enough not to let that happen. It is not as simple as unlocking the doors and letting people back into the building.”

We have several questions to answer before we open back up to in-person worship. The SJLC Safety Task Force uses the guidance we learn through Scripture, our Christian tradition, the ELCA, the CDC and federal, state, and local public health entities.

Some of the questions we are working on—

- What are the best ways we can keep physical distancing and disinfection protocols?
- How will we find the volunteers for all we need to do?
- How will we meet the increased need for financial and human resources as we incorporate physical distancing and ongoing, careful disinfection?

“During a pandemic, gathering for worship requires a delicate balance as we Christians weigh our need for being together as people of all ages, infant through older adult, alongside our commitments not to harm our neighbors through accidental spread of disease.”

[from the Ecumenical Consultation on Worship during a Pandemic Report, *“Resuming Care-filled Worship and Sacramental life during a Pandemic”*]

FAQ:

If the state says we can gather, why don't we?

The simplest answer to that is in our Christian mandate to radically love others. The state offers guidelines with acceptable risks. As a Christian community, we need to evaluate our threshold for “acceptable” risk within the context of our Christian practices.

If other churches are gathering, why aren't we?

In our “Return to Worship” survey, many St. John members have expressed that they hope we wait a bit longer to gather inside. Also, each worshiping community is unique. Each community has differing resources available to them [financial, staff, volunteers]. We are trying to remain realistic within our available resources.

Is there any idea as to when we might be able to gather in person?

Our St. John Covid19 Team is working on using some of the same guidelines our school district is using to help us determine when we can be inside. Meanwhile, since the weather is allowing it, we continue to encourage everyone to worship together at the Drive-in Worship services every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

Your St. John Council continues to meet monthly, on the 3rd Tuesday at 6 PM.
You are welcome to join the meeting.

Join the Council Meeting Go to: www.zoom.us

Meeting ID: 519 114 0024



Hey, St. John, let's reach out to each other.

Let us know in the office know if you know of someone who needs phone calls or letters, please. This weekly newsletter is being mailed to those we know about, but we do not want to miss anyone.

Thank you. Do your part in being church together! **Call, Email, Text, or write a Card to 2 people a day during COVID-19 to keep us all connected. Use your St. John Directory.**



Resources for Faith Building @ Home

Christ in our Home, Are you missing your quarterly **Christ in our Home** devotional? They are in a plastic storage bin, at the side door of the church (Preschool entrance). Please stop over and pick one up. They are free of charge to you. (SJLC covers the fee for the subscription.)

Kids at home? Faith Finders Fun! On our YouTube channel is filled with amazing ways to learn Bible stories and grow faith in the home. Be sure to subscribe.

“Backyard Mondays, Treasure Tuesdays, Creative Wednesdays, Magic Thursdays, Science Fridays” Click [FaithFindersFun Magic Thursday](#) for an example.



How to get your weekly offering to the church

Please consider signing up for scheduled giving. Scheduled giving is done electronically, and you are in complete control of how much you give, how often you give, and you can easily change every week if you choose to.

1/ Give via mobile app [**GIVE+**]

2/ Give electronically either through the website or your own bank. Go to www.greenchurch.org and click the “donate” button at the top of the page. Sign up now for

electronic giving, it is so easy! You may choose a one-time gift, weekly gift, or monthly gift. You can alter your frequency or amounts at any time—you are in control.

3/ Mail your weekly offering to 13045 Fremont Ave. Zimmerman, 55398

Thank you!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SOON TO BE 10TH GRADERS

Important Dates *[subject to change if needed due to COVID precautions]*

September 23rd at 7 pm at SJLC *Parent & Student meeting about the Affirmation of Baptism service [often called Confirmation Day] Faith Packet DUE [due date for packets extended to 10/21]*

September 30 & October 7, 5:45-7 pm-- *Fall Small Group sessions to finish Faith Statements*

October 21—5:45-6:45 pm--*Rehearsal for Affirmation of Baptism—*

October 25, 1 pm—*Worship Service for the Affirmation of your Baptism*

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION UPDATE

We plan to begin Sunday School and Confirmation the first week in October. We know that this year will be different than most, so we want to be sure to give families grace & space! We look forward to being back together. We do, however need willing adults to teach and to be small group leaders. We need volunteers to **help sanitize** classrooms, materials, etc. Until then, take note of the opportunities described above for growing faith in your home before October. These are great resources for everyone---kids and adults.

G.P.S. MIDWEEK DEVOTIONS

Take some time, during your demand-filled week to be reminded of God's Peace.

G.P.S.---"God's Peace Surrounds" is Pastor Kari's mid-week devotion for you. Join on St. John's Facebook Page-- www.facebook.com/greenchurch1897

Wednesdays at 7 pm.

2020 FALL FESTIVAL - CANCELLED

The Women of St. John made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Fall Festival. Because of all the planning that has to take place in order to organize the Fall Festival, this decision had to be made back when the pandemic was first taking hold. We apologize that we neglected to get this notice in the newsletter. [Thank you, Women of St John, for gently and kindly reminding us!] The Women of St John are looking forward to planning for the 2021 Fall Festival. The Fall Festival is such a wonderful event, not only for St. John, but for the entire community. It is an outreach ministry as well as a time of great fellowship. It will be missed [along with so many other favorite things!] this Fall.

CONFIRMATION FOR OUR SOON TO BE 10TH GRADERS

“GRACE & SPACE”

Last Spring, because of COVID19 the worship service for Confirmation was postponed until **Reformation Sunday, October 25th** at 1 PM. We look forward to celebrating with our soon to be 10th Graders and their families at this special worship service.

Your Faith Packets were emailed last Spring--- Remember: **Packets are due ~~September 23rd~~.**

Remember how we said this year would be filled with flexibility, grace & space? Due Date has been moved to **OCTOBER 21ST**. We will give you time on 9/30 and 10/07 to work on them in your Small Groups. Lost your copy? Let us know, we will email you another copy. Remember--it is a full packet and is too involved to be done during Small Group time.



RETURN TO WORSHIP SURVEY

On Friday, August 28th, a “Return to Worship” Survey was emailed to you. The survey is anonymous, so that you can feel free to share your thoughts freely on the subject of returning to in-person worship. Don’t have email? CALL 763-856-4561, on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday between 10 AM-2 PM.

Please take a few minutes to complete this short, but important survey. Thank you!

BE A PART OF BRINGING US BACK TOGETHER

We need your help! We need Sunday School teachers, Confirmation Small Group Leaders, Ushers, and families and individuals willing to help sanitize rooms and materials used after Sunday School, Confirmation, and Worship. Our church is us working together! We can’t offer these programs without your good help. Call 763-856-4561 or email churchoffice@green-church.org to let us know you are willing to be a part of bringing us back together! Please let us know now so we can plan for October.

St. John Lutheran Church

Phone: 763-856-4561 Email: churchoffice@green-church.org

Website: www.green-church.org Facebook: www.facebook./greenchurch1897

YouTube Channel: [SJLC Youtube Channel](#) or go to YouTube and search St. John Lutheran Church Zimmerman

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Deadline for weekly newsletter submissions is 12Noon on Wednesdays, please submit to churchoffice@green-church.org. Subject line: Newsletter

We can't wait to see you again!

In order to give you the most current information, this weekly email will temporarily replace the monthly newsletter. All links in this newsletter are active.