

Synod-wide Worship Joins 140 Congregations Together this Weekend



St. John Lutheran Church Messenger
Week of July 5, 2020
"One body in Christ, Growing, Living and Sharing God's Love"

This Sunday, we worship together with the 140 congregations that make up our Minneapolis Area Synod. It is a unique opportunity to be connected with Lutherans from God's rich and diverse array of congregations in our area. Worship will take place, as it has been, 10 AM on our Facebook page: [FacebookPage greenchurch1897](https://www.facebook.com/greenchurch1897)



Rev. Kelly Chatman, who serves as an advisor to our Bishop will be preaching. Pastor Chatman served as Senior Pastor at Church of the Redeemer in North Minneapolis until his recent retirement. He is the Director of Redeemer Center for Life.

Pastor Chatman challenges us to think about being Prophets in today's world and what that might mean for the church. Reminding us that prophets are those who tell the world that "God has not forgotten". Often, when we think of prophets, we think only of doom and gloom. But, the Biblical prophets, who spoke words of warning, were also the loudest voices of hope in their days.

Worship this weekend with Pastor Chatman and find out what we each have in common with the old T.V. antennas many of you may remember---

The music for worship this weekend is provided by musicians from Redeemer Lutheran Church. You will hear a beautiful rendition of an old favorite: "Precious Lord, Take my Hand". Pastor John Hulden, who helped St. John through the Call process, will be leading the Children's Sermon. He will ask all of us to consider our daily choices in life.

From our Pastor



The Scripture passages for this weekend challenge us to reposition ourselves as forgiven children of God who have a mission in this world. In Romans, chapter 7, St. Paul states a conundrum we are all too familiar with, when he writes: *“I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.”*

It is like the old cartoon that pictures a husband and wife waiting to cross the road, and just to the right of them, there is a street sign which reads: *“Absolutely no machete juggling”* and the caption is the husband saying: *“Suddenly, I have this urge to juggle machetes”*.

We can always count on Paul to be brutally honest about the way we live. So, what then, do we say about this? We say: *“Lord, help! Set us free from ourselves.”*

Paul has experienced another truth of our human existence: that God, in His abundant grace **has** set us free.

By God’s grace, we are given the freedom to try again, so to speak. To learn and grow.

Set us free from ourselves.”

As we celebrate our freedoms this 4th of July weekend, we should be reminded that with freedom come responsibilities. It is true for us as citizens of the United States, and it is true for us as citizens of God’s beautiful family.

Part of our responsibility as Christians is to bring the light of love and justice into this world. We are free from the worry of our sinfulness [doing that which we know isn’t right, as Paul describes] but our freedom is not just FROM, it is FOR something as well.

One way to bring this scripture passage into today's world is to ask yourself: What is it that Christ has set me free to *do*? What responsibilities am I being called to take on, in light of the freedom I have in Christ?

Our Prayer of the Day for this Sunday may help us begin to answer those questions:

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

With Thankfulness!



We have been fortunate to have Kris Gensmer volunteering many, many hours to help make it possible for us to record and broadcast our worship services. As you worship on-line it may be easy and tempting to think that recording, editing, and producing the service online is a simple process. That is partly because Kris makes it look easy and look good with limited resources.

Simply put, it takes a great deal of time to pull it all together.

Thank you Kris, for your willingness to offer your skills to us at St. John so that we can all worship "together...apart"!

We have been fortunate to pivot very quickly and make worshipping online a reality, especially since we had never done so prior to COVID-19.

We are in the process of upgrading some of our equipment so that we can continue making online worship a reality for our congregation [and for people across the country!] even after we have returned to in-person worship.

Council News

St. John Lutheran Church Council Electronic Vote

June 4, 2020

Minutes for the Electronic vote request to approve to allow the Worship, Music and Arts Team to spend up to \$1800, from the Council Discretionary budget to make this purchase.

A motion and a second is needed to purchase up to \$1800 of technology upgrades for the purpose of online worship, using money from the council discretionary budget

Tim Grams made a motion to accept the request for a \$1800 for the tech upgrade .

Dawn Bourdeaux 2nd the motion to accept the request for a \$1,800.00 tech upgrade.

All council members voted and motion passes.

Submitted by --Carolyn Schwab/Secretary

Exciting News about Worship at St. John!



Do you remember drive in movies? Jamming into the car and going to the movies? Rolling the window down, to try to balance that awkward, top-heavy speaker on that thin slice of glass? Remember how the window had to be rolled down just enough to let that one annoying mosquito find its way into your car? That is, until the modern age of drive-in theater came around and we started hearing the sound through our radios?! Those were the days, huh?!

Well...you will have every chance to reminisce because we are preparing for “Drive-in Worship”! Who would have ever thought? When we had to close down the building, online worship was a good first step, but we still long to see each other & be at least a little bit more together. Well, that is the amazing thing---often out of struggle comes great innovation and creativity: like DRIVE-IN WORSHIP!

Your COVID-19 “working our way back to worship” Task Force is moving us toward having an outdoor drive-in style worship service on Sunday, July 26th at 10 AM.

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 will stay in our cars, so we do not unintentionally expose anyone to this virus.

Drive-in Worship at St. John on July 26th at 10 AM!

What to expect when you worship, drive-in style---

- Plan to enter the Drive-In Worship via Fremont Ave/Cty. Rd. 4 and exit from the East [Fellowship Hall] side of the building.

- The service will be short, and the building and restrooms will not be available, so please make your “pit stop” prior to worship
- 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](#)
- Sound will be completely controllable by you! via your FM radio in your vehicle.
- It is going to be so wonderful to see everyone...and so tempting to get out of our cars to say “hi”, but we Lutherans know how to avoid temptation, so we will stay in our vehicles.
- We will celebrate Holy Communion in our vehicles. [It is a *safe* bet that Luther never could have imagined it, even though he was a forward-thinking guy!]

Drive-in Worship at St. John--July 26 at 10 AM



One Body in Christ, Growing, Living, and Sharing God's Love.

St. John Council May Meeting NOTE: because we approve council minutes at the following monthly meeting, this info is from May.

Tuesday, May 19, 2020/6:00 pm/ via Zoom [NOTE: because Mns are approved at the following monthly meeting/these are from May]

Council Attendance: Shane Steinbrecher, Pastor Kari Bahe, Dawn Bourdeaux, Carolyn Schwab, Chris Schmidt, Will Potter, Matt Mongeau,, Jo Thieling. Council member excused absence: Tim Gram

Meeting called to order by President Shane Steinbrecher at 6:02 pm. Devotions and Prayer: Dawn Bourdeaux Motion by Jo and 2nd by Dawn to accept Agenda. Motion approved.

General Reports:

[Pastor Report for May Council Meeting](#)

Wednesday night worship. We normally would have ceased these worship services at this time and attendance has been dropping off a little for Wednesday night worship. Maybe do Bible study by zoom on Wednesday nights instead of the services? That way there will be more interaction. Advice: give the Bible study a try and see how much involvement we get in the summer.

Many churches are not planning to hold in-person worship services until the fall. That may change, of course. Suggestion: Maybe put a timeline out like the Governor did for the state. Or follow what the CDC says. For example: 50 people this is what should happen or 100 people this is what should happen.

Our insurance company has a check-list of what we need in place before we can open the church. Recommend supplying masks

Looking forward to once we do get back to in-person worship. When pastor has been talking with members, some have said they will continue to worship from home until a vaccine is available.

Looking forward to once we do get back to in-person worship together

Pastor will get some quotes on equipment that will make it easier for us to continue video services on line, Facebook and YouTube. We will have an electronic vote when that information is available. Will use the discretionary money.

Lizzie will start back in the office soon, other office staff will likely wait a bit longer.

Communion was brought up, maybe doing once a month, but no decision was made.

Pastor and Shane will put together a thank you to Kris for all the work he has done in getting services online.

Exterminators have been treating the church for the mouse infestation and Pastor has been talking to Wanda Thorson and Pat Kluge about the room with all the nativity items, which is a lot of fabric. They plan on going thru and putting all things that mice like in plastic totes. Right now they are planning to do this themselves but if they need help they will ask. Will be asking in the newsletter for plastic totes that people might have extra in their homes for donation to the church.

OPERATIONS

Team Charters: Continue to work on them.

Fence Request: A request to place a fence at the house property at no cost to the church. Renters will install and remove when they leave. Chris made a motion to approve and Carolyn 2nd the motion. Motion approved

FINANCE

Treasure Report. Tracking overall offering trending pretty favorably, we are lagging behind prior years. Expense side we are tracking close to budget. Year to date essentially breaking even on budget.

PPP \$37,400 arrived April 28th. This is tentatively a loan, but if all parameters are met maybe a forgivable loan. We are maintaining a strong balance sheet at this time mostly due to the PPP.

Cash flow is running at bit of deficit, which is expected given our current situation. Will go over in more depth when we meet in July at retreat.

ATTENDANCE

ELCA has a formula to use for attendance with online viewing and when our numbers are plugged in to this formula, we are excited about the #'s of people who are finding their way to St. John worship online.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Will, 2nd by Jo. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Dawn to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Matt. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7 pm.

Closed with Shane streaming a song by Hillsong Worship, The Lord's Prayer.

Next Regular Council Meeting is Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6 pm. ZOOM. Depending on COVID-19 outbreak.

Submitted by Carolyn Schwab/Secretary

Your St. John Council continues to meet monthly, on the 3rd Tuesday at 6 PM.

We meet via ZOOM. You are welcome to join the meeting.

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

Meeting ID: 519 114 0024 Password: 975524

We are one, united & caring. We are St. John!



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 new St. John Directory.**

Resources for Faith Building @ Home



Christ in our Home, Are you missing your quarterly **Christ in our Home** devotional? We have the **new quarter** available! 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! 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 [Faithfinders](#) for an example.

Your St. John Council continues to meet monthly, on the 3rd Tuesday at 6 PM.

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[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!



St. John Lutheran Church

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

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Christy Hilyar and Adam Babos, Custodians custodian@green-church.org

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

All links in this newsletter are active.

Have a safe, fun, and joy-filled weekend!

Scripture Readings: 5th Sunday after Pentecost
July 5, 2020

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12
The king will come in humility and peace

Psalm: 145:8-14
The Lord is gracious and full of compassion. (Ps: 145:8)

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a
The struggle within

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
The yoke of discipleship