

Covenant News



May 2021

Pastor's Spin

Siblings in Christ of Covenant,

At some point in the next few months, we expect a couple “diaper dandies” (term stolen from a college basketball analyst) to arrive on our home-front, which will require a several week time-frame for me to step away and (very) gradually learn how to do this whole dad thing with double the trouble and all. Although the due date is not until mid-July, there is no way to know exactly when for sure. With that in mind, here’s what to expect...whenever that happens:

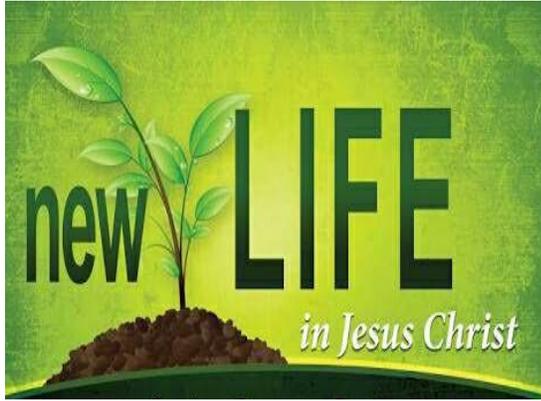


In place of the daily emailed Scripture and prayers based off *The Daily Texts* or *Christ In Our Home*, you will, instead, be invited to subscribe to *God Pause*, which is a daily devotion written by alumni of Luther Seminary (St. Paul, MN). A separate email will be sent to you to remind you of this opportunity as the time gets closer, but you can access the devotion at any time by going to their website: <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/> You can also subscribe to the devotion, so that you receive it automatically through your email on a daily basis.

There will continue to be an article included with Wednesday’s Word, as I will put them together beforehand focusing on some of my favorite hymns in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal. The idea being that, at some point in the early fall, we hope to have a favorite hymn sing on a Sunday morning. The Wednesday devotions, of sorts, will be an opportunity for you to consider your own favorite hymns (whether they be from our ELW hymnal or not), and to let Jen know by a date to be determined later in the summer, so that, as we hope circumstances continue to improve with COVID-19, we may more boldly sing together the very hymns we have longed to do so with joy.



Pastor Harry will serve as emergency pastoral contact if the need ever arises. As for presiding for our weekend worships, Jen is currently working on finalizing the list of those pastors, who have agreed to serve. We are incredibly grateful for their flexibility in scheduling, since there is no way for me to let them know when those weekends would be (the “diaper dandies” haven’t sent us a message when they plan to crash the party yet).



Sarah and I are forever grateful for your continued support and encouragement during this new adventure for us. A communication will be sent out to the congregation when the “diaper dandies” are born. From that point forward, for several weeks, I will not be able to respond to messages (assuming the two of them will demand a certain level of attention), but please know you will always be in our hearts with heartfelt appreciation, and we pray that you experience the new life of God in Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior and Lord, each and every day. Blessings to all of you!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad

FREE *Community* DINNER

served in the building. So, simply come in through our parking lot by the back of the church, and you will be provided a FREE meal (or however many you want for your family and friends as well). If you are interested in helping, please contact Mary Kaye Bernardo. Otherwise, come on by for a FREE dinner Thursday, May 27 (4:30-6pm), or help spread the word to others!

In working with other surrounding congregations, we continue to offer a FREE meal for anyone and everyone in the community and beyond on the 4th Thursday of every month. For the near future, the meals will be provided in a drive-thru format, as opposed to being



5/2 Christopher Dickey
5/3 Phyllis Wekler
5/19 Steven Kobella
5/19 Arlene Lasher
5/19 Bernice Novak
5/21 Joan Garvin
5/25 Ron Schirmer
5/30 Jayden Kyle
5/31 Barbara Gerstenberger
5/31 Matthew Kobella



5/4 Michelle & Doug Pekar
Happy 47th Anniversary!

5/22 Jennifer & Larry Garberich
Happy 22nd Anniversary!

5/7 Charlotte & Robert Zaranka
Happy 55th Anniversary!

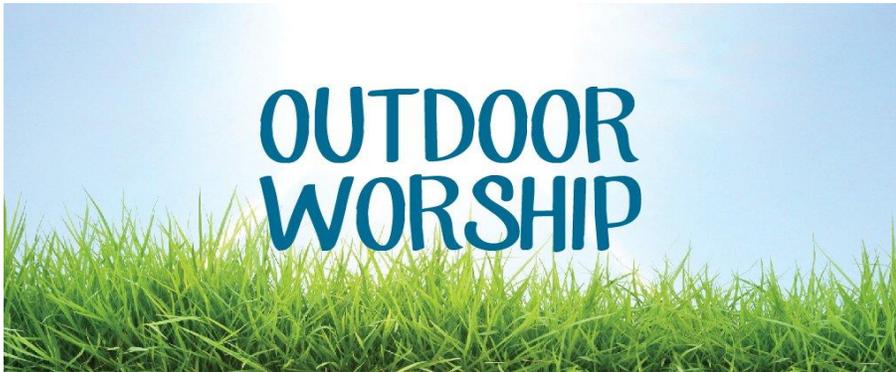
5/22 Nanette & Ron Schirmer
Happy 40th Anniversary!

5/11 Karen & Raymond Zack
Happy 53rd Anniversary!

5/25 Daralynn & Bruce Constant
Happy 42nd Anniversary!



Our worships for Saturday's continue on the 1st and 3rd Saturday's of each month going forward. The same protocols will be in place as we have been doing for worships on Sunday.



With so much of our Covenant family appreciating how we worshiped last summer, and as the vaccines continue to be rolled out across the country and herd immunity develops, our Covenant council has decided to return outdoors for Sunday morning worships (still at 9AM) starting June 6, and continuing through the months of June, July, and August. We would still celebrate Communion every Sunday (bulletins and Communion elements to be picked up by side office door), as well as sing together! You will be encouraged to bring your own lawn chair, and sit wherever you like, or even remain in your vehicle. If the weather does not cooperate that respective Sunday, we would move into the sanctuary with the same protocols as we have been using so far this year. The plan for our Saturday worships for this time-period is still to be determined. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact anyone on our Covenant council.

Also, during the summer months, our own Toni Ridgell will be providing exercise classes for adults (similar to Silver Sneakers programs) on Saturday afternoons here at the church. If you are interested in participating (classes would be for one hour, starting in June), please contact the church office. An informational meeting will be scheduled in the near future for those interested and/or have questions.





For the month of May, when we remain in the sanctuary, we will continue to do our part in providing the safest environment possible as the vaccines continue to be rolled out, knowing that risks still remain for those yet to be vaccinated, especially for youth. We want everyone who worships with us to feel safe, so that they may focus on worshipping God with their whole heart. With that in mind, here is what to still expect (of course, all plans are subject to change, and we will do our best to inform you of any changes as soon as possible, through email, our website, Facebook page, and through our call-in Covenant Groups):

- You will be asked to wear a mask the entire time you are in the church building (unless you have a health condition that prevents you from doing so).
- Worship will be made shorter with the lack of air flow in the sanctuary.
- Bulletins and individual Communion elements in plastic cups will be available for you to pick up as you enter the back of the sanctuary.
- An offering basket will also be in the back of the sanctuary for you to drop your offerings into, as there will not be a time during worship for offering plates to be passed around.
- Blue X's have been placed in front of the pews to mark where we encourage you to sit to maintain physical distancing from those who are not of your household/family. Each spot also has hand sanitizer bottles on that respective pew.
- We will **not** be singing together as a congregation, as published scientific studies reveal the harm with the potential spreading of aerosols/droplets.
- Also, for the bold print in the bulletin, we ask you speak in a whisper voice as opposed to speaking loudly as a group for the prayers of intercession responses, the Lord's Prayer, etc.

We understand this may still seem extreme, but we will always err on the side of caution for our Covenant family's health and safety, including your individual family and friends whom you may come in contact with during the week. We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding as we take on this unique journey together with God's help to be sure. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Covenant council members.

April 9, 2021

Dear Pr. Brad and People of Covenant,

Linda and I were absolutely gobsmacked when we opened the envelope from Gervasi's Vineyard and discovered the gift cards totaling \$475 to honor my retirement!

Somehow, the words "Thank You," seem inadequate to express how grateful we are for your generosity to us.

Not a day goes by when one of us brings up either a person we know or an experience we had during our time at Covenant. This gift draws you even closer to our hearts, if such a thing were possible.

We thank God for you and for having led us to have served you. Though it was only for five years, the relationships we developed, both individually and congregationally, will last more than a lifetime.

Again, thank you and may the Lord continue to bless you and watch over you.

Peace,



Linda Gotthardt-Allende

The Rev. Abraham D. Allende
Linda Gotthardt-Allende

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

May 2021

Server Schedule	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
							1 5:00 Worship at Covenant
AG: Joan Garvin, Mare Zahn, Jen Garberich	2 9:00 Fifth Sunday of Easter	3	4 1:30 Worship & Music Meeting 6:30 Women's AA Meeting in Hall	5	6	7	8
AG: Claudia Senderak, Jean Rusher, Gwen Susanak	9 <i>Mother's Day!</i> 9:00 Sixth Sunday of Easter	10	11 7:00 Council Meeting 6:30 Women's AA Meeting in Hall	12	13	14	15 5:00 Worship at Covenant
AG: Claudia Senderak, Jean Rusher, Gwen Susanak	16 9:00 Ascension of Our Lord	17	18 6:30 Women's AA Meeting in Hall	19	20	21	22 9:00-1:00 Flower Sale Drive Thru-Pick Up
AG: Sheila Werner, Annie Copeland, Paula Hohenstein	23 9:00 Pentecost	24	25 6:30 Women's AA Meeting in Hall	26	27 4:30-6:00 Cov.Hope-- Drive-Thru Community Meal	28	29
AG: Sheila Werner, Annie Copeland, Paula Hohenstein	30 9:00 Holy Trinity	31 Memorial Day office Closed					

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The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137

Pick-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 22, from 9AM-1PM.



We will be using drive-by pick-up method. Please call Jen's cell: 216-970-9980, when you are on your way.