



Worship Notes

Friday, April 16, 2021

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Musicians:
Janice Algren
Jamie Reynolds

Dear Friends and Family,

Wouldn't it be nice to come to church on Sunday and hear the world isn't falling apart—just once? Well, it would be nice, but it wouldn't be the truth. What also is not truth-telling is how God is very involved in the mending of a world that is always on the brink of falling apart. In fact, the Good News that Jesus died and rose from the dead is entirely about the truth of the world dying and God providing new life. Even as we see our culture clash over race relationships, police violence, high crime rates, mass-murders, and so much more, God is all the more offering love and forgiveness and new life. We should be all too excited to come each week to hear that Good News.

Please keep in prayer the following:

Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Cassie Jern & Family, Ila Roseberry, Norman Worthington, Evelyn Volz, Beckie Bean, Joy Johnson, Pat Root, Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Kim Anderson, Matthew Council, Rose Youngquist, Kathi Cruce, Gary Gaskill, Charlotte Volz



Please let the church office know any updates that are needed to our prayer list.

Holy Communion Practices

For those starting to return to worship after a long pandemic, you may notice we have a new pattern for receiving communion. We have stations for receiving and for consuming that are spaced 6 feet apart. The worship assistant and the pastor both wear their masks and gloves while distributing communion. The elements remained covered, except when your host or cup are being taken out to be given to you.

Also, for those unable to come forward for communion, please speak with Pastor Jamie ahead of worship about how to receive communion. It has been our practice to have a family member bring communion back to those who are unable to come forward. As we approach the end of the pandemic, if you feel comfortable with Pastor Jamie bringing communion to you, that conversation needs to happen ahead of worship, and with clear communication, we can work out the safest way for you to receive the sacrament.



Thank you for your generous support of our ministry

Vision and Purpose Giving will resume this month.

On the final Sunday of each month, a special designated project will be named for a special giving opportunity. This month, we are supporting the Quilters here at church. This week, we will hear about the work they do and the needs they have for us to support through a special giving opportunity on the final Sunday of the month. Donations for Vision and Purpose can also be mailed to the church office, simply designate the offering in the Memo line.

This week in worship

Our nation has experienced another police shooting of a suspect, that has ended with the suspect's death and the resignation of the officer. Several nights of protest with strong response have also rocked the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Brooklyn Center in Minnesota. The former officer has now been arrested and charged with manslaughter. We are in the third week of Easter, celebrating what the Risen Christ does for us. And the Risen Christ walks with us as we navigate these trying times, the Risen Christ is revealed in the broken bread of communion, and the Risen Christ yearns for us to be a community of healing. Join us this week as the Risen Christ meets us once more as a broken society, offering us the bread of new life.



Living the Creed

We continue our Living the Creed series on the book of Acts. Living the Creed is an opportunity for you to grow in faith at home as a family. This is your chance to create a little bit of Sunday school at your dinner table or gathered on your living room couch.

This week, we will dive into what the early church looked like. Peter has preached on the day of Pentecost, and the community is growing. The community is filled with prayer and shared living experiences. Living the Creed will give you a chance to talk about how you have similar experiences with your church today, and maybe through this study you will hear God calling you to help others have similar experiences with our church family as well.

This Sunday's Worship Helpers

Worship Assistant: Chip Algren
Usher: Diane Carlson
Organist: Jamie Reynolds
Flowers: Janice Algren

In Honor of Chip Algren's birthday
And Diane Carlson's birthday



An Altar Flower ordering form is on our website. Download the PDF to learn more about your options today.

Sign up for Altar Flowers for April 25, May 2nd, and May 16th
by calling the Church office.

Blessings

They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us as he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

Luke 24:32

We Christians who happen to be Lutheran tend to be rather reserved when it comes to expressing our faith. If a particularly good message strikes us, or a verse we read in the Bible inspires us, we aren't so likely to say what the disciples in Emmaus said, "Our hearts are burning within us". Rather, we are more apt to be no more excited than a slow simmer. We take our sweet time for the inspiration to build up, and even when we are ready to show complete excitement, we are likely to look around to make sure no one is looking first. It's just who we are. And while this may be hyperbolic satire of our Lutheran heritage, many of us probably identify with how true this is.

The disciples walking to Emmaus on the afternoon of Christ's resurrection are not expecting their now dead teacher to be suddenly walking alongside of them. Even if they did understand what the women said about the tomb being empty, that Jesus was risen, since no one had been raised from the dead before this, they would not have had any clue what that meant. So, naturally, as a stranger walks alongside them and talks with them about the events of Jesus' death and reported resurrection, they assume he is nothing more than another Jew who they hadn't met while following Jesus.

But their talk with this stranger was more than a typical Bible study. The words he said stirred something within them. A passion was rising. And then with the breaking of the bread at the dinner table, their eyes were fully opened and their excitement led them to run the whole 7-miles back to Jerusalem to find the other disciples and tell them what they just experienced. Their hearts were burning within them. Their hearts were not able to contain the feelings of joy with their faith, and they could not keep this experience to themselves.

This week, we get to ask ourselves this question, "what will it take for my faith to be so passionate, that my heart cannot contain its joy and excitement that I cannot wait to tell someone what I have just experienced?" The blessing of our faith in Jesus is that Jesus walks with us every day, opening our eyes to see him in the stranger, in the friend, in the breaking of the bread. And whether our hearts are at a slow simmer or a full rolling boil, our hearts are burning with the passion of Jesus just waiting to be shared with others.

In peace, Pastor Jamie