



# Worship Notes

Friday, April 23, 2021

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dear Friends and Family,

I experienced a strange insult the other day. Another driver in a parking lot called me "Grandpa". What did I do to deserve this insult? I had politely asked this driver to move forward a couple feet so I could continue on my way. All I could do was toss my hands up in the air and wonder what have we come to in this world that a polite request is responded to with an insult and also much foul language. It also made me wonder, when did I get old enough for someone to call me "Grandpa." I hope you all have experienced much more polite responses to your being polite; and that incidents of road rage such as this will soon become a thing of the past.

*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, Amber Kerr, Julie Kerr, Jaxson, Chris



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

### Slowly returning to normalcy

Slowly returning to normalcy looks like a worship service that is more and more familiar to us with more and more congregational responses and hymns. We have been slowly resuming those responses and hymns and worship should feel every bit the same as it did before the pandemic.

Slowly returning to normalcy means being able to have in-person Bible study once more. Tuesday evenings at 6:30 (I learned I advertised two different times for it, I apologize for the mix-up, we settled on 6:30 as the correct time).

As you feel ready and comfortable to join in with our in-person worship and Bible study, you will begin to feel more comfortable inviting others to join us as well. The more involved you are, the more others will want to be involved with you.

And slowly, life in church will feel more complete.



*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

In a story from the Book of Acts, we find out the early church is growing very rapidly. So fast is the growth, that the 12 Apostles are having a hard time keeping up with all that is needed to be done. So, they come up with a plan to recruit some new leaders.



This serves as an example to our modern church as we seek to develop ministries, we cannot rely on one person or one small group of people. We have to be growing our leaders to help our ministry grow. Everyone has a gift to share, everyone has a place to lead and serve.

Join us this Sunday in worship and hear how God is preparing you for ministry.

## 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, our Living the Creed will be a deep dive into the story of Acts chapter 6, when the Apostles appoint 7 new leaders to help out with a church ministry. Conflict had arisen within the early church, as maintaining all the different aspects of ministry were getting strained by the rapid growth. And a creative solution was needed to resolve this conflict.

What does this teach us as we deal with conflict in our ministry today? When have we seen creative solutions used to resolve conflict in our church? Take time as a family to grow in faith and learn more about one of the essential stories in the Book of Acts.

## This Sunday's Worship Helpers

Worship Assistant: Jim Johnson  
Usher: Linda McGuire  
Organist: Jamie Reynolds  
Flowers: *open*



### Altar Flowers

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 May by calling the Church office. Only May 9th (Mother's Day) is spoken for so far.

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## Blessings

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

Psalm 23

The fourth Sunday of Easter is typically referred to as "Good Shepherd Sunday". For ancient reasons, this Sunday has been paired with lectionary readings from the 23rd Psalm, and John chapter 10, where Jesus identifies himself as the Good Shepherd. While we won't hear that emphasis in church this Sunday, the 23rd Psalm will be a part of our liturgy. This comforting Psalm is one of the few pieces of scripture we could all quote from memory. But what you probably never consider is that Psalm 23 follows Psalm 22. Well, numerically that makes sense. But did you know the first verse of Psalm 22 is "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the word of my groaning?"

It is strange when you place these two Psalms beside each other. One wondering where God is, the other absolutely assured of God's constant presence. Our faith is in constant tension between these two equal expressions. We are on a pendulum swing between them, somedays feeling God's absence other days resting comfortably in the divine hands. We will hear others say that faith is not faith unless you are always Psalm 23, or others say that the absence of God disproves all of faith. Yet, our ancestors of faith did not have absolute extremes. They held these two in tension with each other. They knew somedays God's absence would be found as their nation would be conquered by another invader, or their prophets and messiahs were killed. They knew other days God's eternal light would shine on them as through their sacrifices they experienced renewal, or as their king proclaimed songs of victory.

The journey of faith we experience today is not much different. We wonder where God has wandered off to when our medical diagnoses come in with bad test results, or long time ailments won't go away. We wonder why God doesn't hear our prayers for peace and change in the world. And then we rejoice with God as a word of forgiveness is proclaimed or a hymn touches our heart or the call or visit by a loved one brightens our day.

Would we rather just always have Psalm 23 as the only way we experience faith? Absolutely. Is that how life and this journey of faith really works? Absolutely not. But we are comforted by our ancestors of faith who demonstrated that it is okay to live in this place of tension—between doubt and full faith. May we witness our faith not only on Psalm 23 days, but all the more on Psalm 22 days.

In peace, Pastor Jamie