



Worship Notes

Friday, April 9, 2021

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Janice Algren
Jamie Reynolds

Dear Friends and Family,

What a beautiful morning to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! This is our refrain for the next six Sundays as we celebrate a “week of Easter” over the course of 7 total Sundays. So while many of us have put away our baskets, eaten our fill of hard-boiled eggs and chocolate, and are ready to turn to what is next, here in the Church we do not turn so quickly to what comes next. Here we stay, at the empty tomb, at the place where Christ opens the way to everlasting life for all of God’s children.

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, Graham Johnson, Ila Roseberry, Norman Worthington, Evelyn Volz, Beckie Bean, Joy Johnson, Pat Root, Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Kim Anderson, Matthew Council, Rose Youngquist, Kathi Cruce, Rob Kerschke, Gary Gaskill, Charlotte Volz

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



Thank you for your generous support of our ministry

Your gifts make our church possible. Sharing weekly or monthly or seasonally in a planned way ena-

bles:

Our church to worship, to serve, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus in so many different ways.

Celebrate the donations you offer. Give thanks that the ministry you support makes a powerful impact in our community.

9 AM in-person Worship

As we continue to move towards full normalcy in worship, we will begin including more hymns each week. We will have more congregational responses, though we are not back to saying the full liturgy.

Please remember to stay home if you have any symptoms or are not feeling well. Masks and social distancing remain standard protocols for attending worship. Everyone is doing so well following these basic protocols. I am so thankful for all the ways you are assisting keeping our community safe.

This week in worship



The Second Sunday of Easter brings us a couple of evening resurrection stories. Jesus appears to his disciples in Jerusalem the first night of Easter, and offers them peace. But one disciple is not with them that night. It is one week later, when Thomas is back with the whole group that Jesus appears again. This time, offering Thomas the chance to see for himself that it truly is the Lord risen from the dead.

It had to have been a chaotic time for the disciples. To receive the gift of peace in the midst of chaos must have been just what they needed. How do we receive the same gift of peace in the midst of our own chaos? Join us as we hear Jesus speak to us a word of peace.

Living the Creed

Throughout the Easter season, the first readings come from the Book of Acts. This is the first book of the New Testament after the four Gospels. Written by the same author as Luke's Gospel, the book follows the stories of Peter and Paul and a few of the other earliest followers of Jesus.

Our Living the Creed series over the next six weeks will help us discover the rich history of the earliest days of Ekklesia (the Greek word that translates as Church).

In our first reading for this Sunday, the disciples choose a new disciple to take the place of Judas. Learn more about the early disciples and the way they begin figuring out how to be Ekklesia, Church, when you download this week's Living the Creed PDF.

This Sunday's Worship Helpers

Worship Assistant: Pam Best
Usher: Steve Erlandson
Organist: Janice Algren
Flowers: David and Dean Sandstrom
In memory of their parents:
Clarence and Ruth Sandstrom



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 18, April 25 and May 2nd by calling the Church office.

Blessings

Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

John 20:21

One of our many Easter blessings is the gift of peace that Jesus brings to us in the midst of chaos. Chaos is experienced in many different ways. For those disciples, they just witnessed the death of their beloved teacher. They felt the pressure of the chief priests and leaders within their nation seeking them out. They were afraid of the Romans looking for any who might have followed Jesus, in case any of the followers took up the mantle of revolt. They didn't know what to do, who to trust, or even where to go. And in the midst of this chaos, Jesus entered with a word of peace.

What does chaos look like in our own time? We have an on-going pandemic that is slowly ending. We have economic struggles these disciples could never have imagined. We have burdens of kids in school and college. We have farms with fields that need prepping for planting and equipment that just doesn't want to cooperate. Technology is constantly changing and giving us headaches, and then someone always asks just when we are at our wits end, "So what's for dinner?"

In the midst of our own chaos, Jesus speaks a word of peace. This peace is a settled mind, a confidence that we have the ability to get through the day, the week, the pandemic year. This peace is a trust in our God who offers forgiveness. This peace assures us that we will overcome the chaos.

And not only does Jesus give us peace, Jesus sends us just as he was sent. Jesus is saying, here is a gift of peace, don't keep it to yourself. And this is just one of the many Easter blessings. We have received peace so that we can share peace. What a blessing. We have been given peace in the midst of our chaos so that we can go to our neighbor and offer them peace. Sharing peace has many different expressions. Sometimes it is offering a meal to a neighbor in need. Sometimes it is just being there and listening. Sometimes it is offering a ride. Sometimes it is by asking a simple question, "how can I help you best?"

This Easter season, may we be refreshed in the joy of bringing Jesus' peace to others, the peace that surpasses all understanding.

In peace, Pastor Jamie