



Worship Notes

Friday, August 14, 2020

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Jamie Reynolds

Dear Friends and Family,

I am attempting to update our format for our weekly Worship Notes and our weekly Our Church—This Week to give each a different feel, more like a bulletin insert or more like a newsletter. So, hopefully the new formats are well-received, and I appreciate the patience as we experiment until we find the right style.

I look forward to seeing everyone in worship this weekend, and for those still watching our online videos at home, I will have those uploaded once again and the links sent out on Monday, with the Our Church—This Week newsletter.

Please keep in prayer the following:



Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, Elizabeth, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Cassie Jern & Family, Delores Johnson, Graham Johnson, Jim Johnson, Bob Kerschke, Ila Roseberry, Tucker Smith, Marjorie Swanson, Norman Worthington, Carmen, Evelyn Volz, Darrell Thirtyacre, Donna Larson

and Sgt. Lacey Elliott, who continues to serve our country

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

In-Person Worship Habits

Thank you. We are doing a great job reducing the risks of the pandemic as we continue following these habits:

- * If you are sick, please stay home.
- * Face masks are required for attending in-person worship. The church has extra masks if you forget yours at home.
- * Social distancing in the pews means we sit at least 6-feet apart from other family units.
- * Offering plates are at each entrance for you to place your giving as you enter or depart.
- * Communion practices include social distancing as well, follow the signs on the floor for where to receive and where to consume.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry



Thank you for continuing to send in your offerings. We continue to receive many offerings by mail; also, thank you to those who bring their offering to worship and place them in the offering plates, and to those who continue with online giving.

The offerings support our ministry and beyond, as we offer mission support to our synod and through that offering, support a myriad of ministries around the country and the world.



This week in worship

We will hear the story of how Joseph reunites with his brothers. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, as they were jealous of his dreams and of how their father favored him over the rest. In Egypt, Joseph was a slave and elevated to a head steward; jailed after false accusations, then freed to become Pharaoh's assistant during a famine. His position of power allows him to save his brothers during the same famine. Their reconciliation serves as a model for how our families can reconnect even after long, and sometimes painful, experiences.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER opportunities



This Week

Worship Assistant: Jim Johnson

Acolyte and ushers still needed

Sign up to help as a Worship Assistant, Acolyte, or Usher: August 23, August 30, September 6.

We have openings for altar flowers



August 23

August 30

September 6

How to Help in Worship

Worship Assistants help with leading congregation responses, reading the lessons, and assist during communion.

These three roles are combined into one to reduce the number of volunteers coming forward during this pandemic time. You may be comfortable helping with one role, but not another. But in this pandemic time, we have an opportunity to let the Holy Spirit guide us into new ways of serving, so that we can continue our in-person worship. If you have any questions about how to help in worship, please ask Pastor Jamie.

Living the Creed

This week, our Living the Creed is a take-home exercise. You will find in our email a link to a family tree genome project. The Take-Home Exercise flyer explains the activity, and Pastor Jamie will also explain in worship. This is an opportunity to discover areas where reconciliation in the family may be needed, just as in Joseph's family, reconciliation was needed.

Reconciliation is a key component of our faith, and when we experience the true forgiveness and true reconnection that comes with reconciliation, we are living our faith in bold ways.

Blessings

2 As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

Our church experienced a fire alarm this week on Wednesday afternoon. We learned this was because a sensor was faulty. When the alarm happened, our day care and preschool had to evacuate, and some of the preschool students were asleep and were waking up to a scary noise. Rose Sandstrom and I were able to assist the preschool teachers during this moment. We held hands with the students as we came down the stairs and walked across to the playground. Along the way, we were reassuring them everything was going to be okay, and they were safe. I wonder what the kids were saying to each other as they saw the fire trucks arrive. I was back inside, trying to figure out what was happening.

This verse from 2 Thessalonians came to mind after all the dust settled. It is Paul reminding us that we are not to be alarmed when Jesus comes. Jesus will come much like an unanticipated fire alarm. And it might be scary because we won't recognize it, our life being disrupted like a preschool nap by a piercing alarm bell. But for those of us who have gathered in the church, who have heard the Good News, we will know there is nothing to be afraid of. Jesus' love and promise of the resurrection protects us and is our reassuring word that we will be safe.

It is our job to tell that Good News to everyone. Jesus' love and promise of the resurrection protects everyone; it is the reassuring word the world needs to hear that it will be safe. Even though the times feel scary, we still need to be reminded we are safe—and if we need to be reminded, then so does the entire world. The alarm is ringing, Jesus is coming—let's stand together and remind everyone Jesus' love keeps them safe.

In Christ,

Pastor Jamie