



# Worship Notes

Friday, August 28, 2020

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dear Friends and Family,

Out west, forest fires are raging. Down south, a hurricane has devastated regions of Texas and Louisiana. And just to our north, protests against police violence rage in the city of Kenosha, WI. We are getting tired of the burdens of our world. Disaster, unrest, Covid-19 pandemic closing businesses and changing rules seemingly daily, these things carry a weight around our shoulders and a heavy grief within our souls. We seek relief from all this as much as we do from the oppressive heat wave we suffered this week. Rejoice, for God hears our cries and offers relief in the form of a caring heart and restored faith that Jesus has already given us victory.

*Please keep in prayer the following:*



Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, Elizabeth, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Brad and Jodie Haist, 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*

Ways to Give:



Mail your envelop to the church office

Begin or continue automatic giving (ask for a form from the church office)

Bring your offering to worship and place in the offering baskets at the entrance to the sanctuary

Don't forget: You may designate your giving, for instance, for our monthly Vision and Purpose Giving. This month we support the Western Illinois Animal Rescue Shelter here in Monmouth.



### This week in worship

Our Old Testament story features Moses encountering God at Mount Horeb. The strange sight that alerts Moses to God's presence is a bush that is on fire, but which is not being consumed by that fire. I'm sure there are some folks out in CA who would prefer some non-consuming fire right about now to the ecological disaster they are experiencing.

Anyway, Moses encounter with God at Mt. Horeb leads Moses to returning to Egypt to lead God's chosen people out of that nation and eventually to a place to call home. We will hear God's sacred name and we will hear God's voice name the cries of those who are oppressed as the cries that lead to divine action.

**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: Sept 6, 13, 20, 27

**We have openings for altar flowers**



**Altar  
Flowers**

September 6

September 13

September 20

September 27

Diane Carlson

**Worship Assistant Training on August 30**

*Join us this Sunday after worship for a brief training for our new worship assistant role.*

*We will cover how to lead the responses, how to be comfortable leading the liturgical gestures, and communion.*

*Pastor is hopeful to have 7 or 8 folks participate to set up a rotating schedule of helpers.*

*Even if you have helped before, this is a great opportunity to review.*

*See you all on Sunday.*

**Living the Creed**

This week, our Living the Creed is a take-home exercise. You will find in the e-mail a PDF to download.

This week's Living the Creed take-home exercise is about refugees. We will look at the story of the Hebrew people, and compare how their story is defined by the word "refugee" in both the popular concept and the legal definition. We will explore the path a refugee takes to be resettled in a new home, such as the United States, and explore the website for World Relief, an agency that works with refugees, immigrants and displaced peoples across the globe.

Download your copy and explore your faith with this take-home exercise.

***Blessings***

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 18:28-30

Jesus offers us a rest from our heavy burdens. And our burdens are many. For most of us the normalcy of life, anxieties about crops and favorable weather, anxieties about financial stability and getting our children through college, and the typical family stresses of just being family, these are enough to weigh us down. But 2020 has presented an unusual circumstance of additional burdens that prove the adage "When it rains, it pours." One after another new burden lands on our shoulders, we are not able to fully adjust before the next one is piled on, and we just want a day, and maybe a week, or longer to be honest, of relief from another overwhelming news story piling on the already over-taxed shoulders.

Jesus offers us a rest from our heavy burdens. We have heard this from our youth. We know we are to turn to our Friend, and take it to the Lord in prayer. We know how great our God is, our soul sings the refrain to our Savior God. We rely on the amazing grace, which has taught our hearts to fear, and which has our fears relieved. Yet, still these burdens keep coming. Yet, the news continues to darken our days.

Yes, Jesus offers us a rest from our heavy burdens. But no, it is not a miracle cleanser that washes away the burdens like a Mr. Clean scrubber wipes the grime off our counters and walls. The rest Jesus offers us is this: the knowledge that we do not have to save ourselves in the midst of these burdens. Jesus has already saved us. We are free from having to try to overcome all this on our own. Jesus has overcome, and Jesus walks with us through the trials and temptations. The yoke Jesus offers leads us to bring relief to others, to say they are not alone, just as we are not alone. We shoulder these burdens together with Jesus and with one another. The light burden Jesus offers is found when we care for one another, and as we share, our own burden will become lighter.

Jesus offers us a rest from our burdens. Share the yoke he offers. Be at peace.

Pastor Jamie