



Worship Notes

Friday, February 26, 2021

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dear Friends and Family,

The snow is melting. The sun is shining. We are singing our closing hymn when we are worshipping.

Our first Sunday with resumed in-person worship was a great delight. Thank you to everyone who helped give worship such great life.

This week we continue in person at 9 AM. Don't forget to download the Living the Creed from our website, it has great stories about the impact of our donations to ELCA World Hunger.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry

Regular offerings, designated offerings, special gifts—can all be brought to worship and placed in an offering plate. **OR** you can sign-up to automatically have your offerings given from your bank account. **OR** you can mail your offerings to the office. Thank you, for however you choose to support the ministry of our church.



Please keep in prayer the following:



Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Brad and Jodie Haist, Cassie Jern & Family, Delores Johnson, Graham Johnson, Bob Kerschke, Ila Roseberry, Norman Worthington, Evelyn Volz, Darrell Thirtyacre, Donna Larson, Beckie Bean, Joy Johnson, Pat Root, Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Kim Anderson, Matthew Council, Rose Youngquist, Kathi Cruce, Rob Kerschke, Gary Gaskill

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

Resuming In-Person Worship

We will continue using liturgical hand motions for most of our congregational responses.

We will begin reciting the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer together.

We will begin singing the closing hymn together.

We will continue the communion practice using stations for receiving and consuming.

As the pandemic continues to wrap up and more individuals are vaccinated, we will continue to be in conversation about when to add more elements back into worship. It is quite possible that by late summer or early fall, we may be experiencing the full worship service as we did pre-pandemic.

This week in worship



Our Lenten sermon series focusing on Sin and Redemption intersect with human ways. In our Gospel story, Jesus tells his disciples that he will be killed in Jerusalem. Peter replies with a snarky, "We'll have none of that" kind of response. But Jesus reminds Peter that God's ways are not the same as human ways.

How do our human ways trip us up and prevent us from following God's ways today? Join us Sunday as we continue our Lenten journey to the cross of Christ.

Living the Creed

Throughout Lent, our Living the Creed at-home Faith Learning Experience will focus on stories from the ministries of the ELCA World Hunger.

This week you will meet Kanchan from India. Download the PDF for the discussion guide. Watch a short video (link included in the email). Take time as a family to use the discussion guide to learn more about Kanchan's life and how the ELCA World Hunger ministered to her. Your financial support of the ELCA World Hunger throughout Lent will be one way a person like Kanchan will continue to receive the life-sustaining ministry of our church.

To find the video, use the link in the email or go to Elca.org; click on the word "resources"; click on "ELCA World Hunger", and then click on "Stories" and look for the video link to Kanchan's story.

This Sunday's Worship Helpers

Worship Assistant: Mark and Ellen Shrader

Usher: Steve Erlandson

Organist: Jamie Reynolds

Flowers

We are back in our sanctuary, and it is time to sign up once more to sponsor flowers for worship. All Sundays are open at this time. Please consider calling the church office and reserving a week in March or April.

We have not yet decided how we will do special flowers for Easter. Watch for more information to come soon.

Blessings

"Your Father who sees in secret will reward you." — Matthew 6:6

Sometimes, we feel we do not make much of a difference in the world. After all, we don't have a lot to give. We don't have food to feed everyone who is hungry. Sometimes it isn't about what we have to offer, we see what others do and we think we can't do that as well. The big TV show hosts who give away so much to their audience, or surprise families with special needs—we can't do that. The televangelist with an audience of 20,000 in stadium, and millions more watching around the world, we can't be that.

When we down play what we can do because of our own feelings of inadequacy, or our own sense of comparing against someone else, we forget something very important. God doesn't call us to be flashy and big and really important. God simply calls us to love our neighbor enough that we do what we can to help them. And many times, it is a simple unnoticed gift that makes more of an impact than any big flashy show of giving.

In India, Kamini Dhurvey was just a child when her mother died. Her father remarried and her stepmother abused her. She escaped her home life, but was more unsafe and unprotected in searching for her own place. She eventually learned of a program called Naari Shakti, a project of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madhya Pradesh in India that is supported by ELCA World Hunger. This program works for gender equality, provides education in tailoring and computer skills, and offers emergency medical care to girls and women in vulnerable situations. Through this program Kamini finally found safety and new life.

If we think we cannot make a difference, we need to read Kamini's story again and again and again. When we donate to ELCA World Hunger it is lives like Kamini's we are changing. And ELCA World Hunger has programs in over 60 countries that do this much good work all over. Your simple gift makes this happen. Your simple gift becomes a part of over \$400,000 from the Northern Illinois Synod. Your gift ends up part of over \$23 million the ELCA World Hunger receives to change lives, such as Kamini's life.

We don't always need our name on big flashing lighted signs to say "Look what we did." In fact, Kamini will never know the name of First Lutheran Church, Monmouth, IL. She will know the ELCA. She will know the Church that changed her life. She will know God was present through it all. And God, who sees in secret, will know who made this impact possible. And in the end, God is the only one who needs to know. Join me this Lent in being a blessing to Kamini and millions of others around the world who benefit from our secret giving. Donate to ELCA World Hunger. Match your donation with an equal gift for Jamieson Center for a meaningful local impact story.

In Peace,

Pastor Jamie