



Worship Notes

Friday, March 19, 2021

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Janice Algren
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Dear Friends and Family,

I shared the story of my family’s new snake escaping from its habitat, thanks to the cat sitting on the screen top. Well, the snake has been located. He is safely back in his habitat and a new cat-proof habitat has been created. The irony is we found the snake on St. Patrick’s Day. St. Patrick’s legend includes a story of chasing snakes out of Ireland. While that legend is completely not true, it is symbolic of his work to convert the people of Ireland to the Christian religion. Ireland never needed to be rescued from snakes, and our house did not need to be burned down because of one lost snake. I hope you found a fun way to celebrate our March holiday, free of any worries about snakes.

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, Delores Johnson, Graham Johnson, Ila Roseberry, Norman Worthington, Evelyn Volz, Darrell Thirtyacre, 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

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.



Resuming In-Person Worship

Our worship pattern throughout this Lenten season continues with us refraining from sharing in congregational responses. We do include sharing the Apostles’ Creed and the Lord’s Prayer as well as the closing hymn.

As we approach Easter, we will begin including more congregational responses. We are slowly introducing elements as we continue to near the end of the pandemic. As more members of the community receive their vaccine and as our state and national health experts update guidelines for ending the pandemic, we will continue to adjust according to those guidelines.

It is difficult when we know some churches are doing more that we are in worship. It may be fascinating to know some churches are not even in person yet. We do not make decisions based on other churches. We do make decisions based on how God is guiding our congregation. Thank you again for your flexibility and understanding.

This week in worship

Our Lenten series on Sin and Redemption takes a spin through glory land. We hear the message that the Father is glorified as the Son of Man is lifted up. And this is a strange message. How does one dying bring glory? We have been told from early on that the wages of sin is death. So how can death bring glory? The cross of Christ is where we experience redemption, and God is glorified whenever we experience redemption. Does something or someone have to die before we can experience redemption? Join us Sunday as we dive into this space where sin and redemption meet and God the Father is glorified.



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 Marie, who lives in the Central African Republic. She is 14. Like many girls in Africa, she has to walk to get water for her family. ELCA World Hunger partners with ministries to provide safe drinking water, saving girls like Marie and average of 3.7 miles a day of walking, just to get water. Watch the video and follow through the PDF to learn more about how your donations to ELCA World Hunger makes safe, clean drinking water possible for communities around the world.

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 Kafley family story.

This Sunday's Worship Helpers

Worship Assistant: Jim Johnson
Usher: Ted Hanson
Organist: Jamie Reynolds
Flowers: *open*



An Altar Flower ordering form is on our website. Download the PDF to learn more about your options today.

EASTER LILIES! We will not pre-order Easter Lilies. If you would like to bring a potted flower to help decorate the sanctuary on Easter Morning, please do. Then you can take your flower home after worship and enjoy.

Blessings The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. Isaiah 11:6

A vision of peace has been at the heart of faith in Yahweh since the LORD was first made known. Here in Isaiah, a prophecy of peace uses images of animals who in the wild are known to be in conflict as predator and prey and yet now they are peacefully cohabitating. Disney released a movie a few years ago called Zootopia which was partly based on this biblical metaphor—predators and prey living together in harmony.

Of course, we know the reality of this prophecy is much more difficult to come by. Even in the children's movie, the predators and prey were not fully living in harmony. There was still crime, there were still animals trying to hurt other animals. The bunny officer and the fox informant find a way, however, to overcome their differences and resolve the mystery at the heart of the movie's plot and come out stronger as friends in the end.

Real life conflict is not so simply wrapped up as in a Disney animated feature film. It takes intense work to see Isaiah's vision come to fruition. In Columbia, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Columbia has partnered with ELCA World Hunger to bring this vision to life. In a nation that has been ravaged by warring factions for decades, this ministry partnership brings together former combatants and through the church offers them a chance to begin a new life, resuming their trades as farmers and fishers, rebuilding a land ravaged by war and conflict.

Conflict is a major contributor to world hunger. The UN estimates that up to 80% of humanitarian needs around the world are caused by conflict. In Columbia, paramilitary groups, insurrectionists, and many other factions have caused 103 massacres, displacing more than 32,000 people (almost as many residents as Warren County), just in a period between 1998 and 2002. The Church is there in this midst of this conflict torn land, offering the vision of Isaiah. And when we support ELCA World Hunger, which funds over \$23 million of ministries around the world each year, we are funding Isaiah's vision in San Jose de Leon, Columbia. We are sending a message that the wolf and the lamb can live together, that the leopard and the baby goat can lie down in each other's safe company once more.

It is hard to believe that our Lenten donation makes any difference. Yet, even a gift of \$40 is a blessing, because it combines with the blessings from others, and becomes the peace-bearing gift of the church in a land torn by war desperately wondering if Isaiah's vision can be real. To that we say—with our donation, it can be. In peace, Pastor Jamie