



Worship Notes

Friday, March 5, 2021

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Musicians:
Janice Algren
Jamie Reynolds

Dear Friends and Family,

You know how we occasionally find bats hanging out in the church building here, they get in and find a spot to rest, and then have to get chased out or caught and released. Most of us don't mind bats, and a few of us are really bothered by them. My wife's church doesn't have bats. They have snakes. Last Sunday, my son and his cousin found a bull snake in the church basement. They named this snake Gerald. And my nephew thought he was going to be able to keep it, until he got home and his parents changed his mind. So, now we will become the keeper of Gerald. Trust me—this would never happen with a bat.

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, Cassie Jern & Family, Delores Johnson, Graham Johnson, 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 the Ten Commandments. Our first reading takes us back to God's covenant language with the people of Israel which we know as the Ten Commandments. It begins with God's promise—I am your God. And it continues with how we live in the world as God's people.

Join us as we explore how we sometimes replace the One God with many other gods, and how redemption still is available for us.

Living the Creed

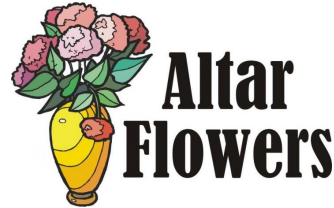
Throughout Lent, our Living the Creed at-home Faith Learning Experience will focus on stories from the ministries of the ELCA World Hunger.

This week you will meet Virginia Quispe (Key-spay) from La Paz, Bolivia. She received a micro-loan from the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church, a ministry supported by ELCA World Hunger. This micro-loan helped Virginia grow her business and develop economic stability for her family. Watch a brief video about her story and then work through the PDF as a family as you learn more about ELCA World Hunger.

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 Virginia Quispe’s story.

This Sunday’s Worship Helpers

Worship Assistant:	Pam Best
Usher:	Diane Carlson
Organist:	Janice Algren
Flowers:	Dee Dee Yez



We are back in our sanctuary, and it is time to sign up once more to sponsor flowers for worship. The sign up board is once again located outside the office. Call the office or stop by to select a Sunday to sponsor flowers.

Blessings

“Those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give them will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” — John 4:14

The work of ELCA World Hunger is not simply an international ministry. There is much happening right here in our own nation. Take the example of how ELCA World Hunger has partnered with Hepatha Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. Milwaukee is like many US urban centers. It has high rates of poverty, and with high rates of poverty comes high rates of lead exposure. Lead paint in houses is a tremendous urban problem, and lead exposure in city water is a significant problem. Flint, Michigan gets all the attention when it comes to lead exposure in water. But Milwaukee and many other urban centers have the same problem.

Pastor Mary Martha and the people of Hepatha Lutheran Church have begun an advocacy ministry that uses two approaches. One approach is about community organizing and meeting with state and city officials to provide legislative solutions and infrastructure renewal. The other approach is more practical, they provide lead-free kits. These kits come with tape to place over chipping lead paint, mops to wipe away dust from lead paint, water filters for faucets to eliminate many of the contaminants from the city water supply, and information about lead and its dangers.

What Pastor Mary Martha and the people of Hepatha Lutheran Church know is that the crisis of unsafe water and the exposure to lead is a justice issue. They know they have a calling to cry out on behalf of those who are suffering from the unjust systems of poverty and unmaintained infrastructure. They know they have been gifted with resources to help their neighbors achieve a better quality life, even as the state and city have a long way to go to bring about all the right solutions.

ELCA World Hunger is a national and global ministry that helps us hear how our neighbors are crying out from the unjust situations they are in. Our financial contributions are a blessing as it further enables ministries like Hephatha Lutheran Church in ministering to its and our neighbors in need. But ELCA World Hunger also brings awareness to us that we have neighbors even in our own community who are struggling for justice. We have ministries that we partner with Jamieson Center, for instance, to provide a food pantry and to provide financial assistance for those with emergency needs. We have worked with the alternative school to see those students have access to personal hygiene kits and birthday cakes. We were a founding member of the Open Table ministry, creating a place where lives can be changed not just in a brief moment, but for a lifetime of new stability.

This is the blessing of supporting ELCA World Hunger. It tells others that we value the whole world just as much as we value our neighbors in town. It says we are not just sending money to faceless problems, but we are advocating on behalf of those whose stories we know. It says God is not done with this world, as long as we have gifts to return to others. May our support of ELCA World Hunger bring the blessings to all our neighbors, until all are fed. In Peace, Pastor Jamie