



Worship Notes

Friday, November 20, 2020

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Custodian: Chris Algren
Jamie Reynolds

Dear Friends and Family,

Well, here we are again—back to not having in-person worship. This is a scenario we hoped to avoid. And we are all very sad that we have to return to an entirely online worship presence.

Please remember this very important message: **WORSHIP IS NOT CANCELLED.**

It is just experienced differently. God is still praised. God still receives all the glory. God is still leading us through this difficult time. We continue to offer joy and thanksgiving to God always, even when watching worship together in our separate home.

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, Jim Johnson, Kay and Glenn Bailey, Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Matt Council, Sara Johnson, 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.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry

This week as part of our on-line worship video, Doug Cruce, a member of our Finance/Stewardship Committee, will share a word of thanks to the congregation for the generous support you all have for the ministries we share.

Pledge cards are being sent out this week. Please return your pledge card by mail to the church office.

God has blessed us with more ministry to do. Thanks for making that possible.



Online Worship

What to expect if you haven't checked out our worship videos yet—First, for Sunday, Nov 22, I will record on Sunday morning at 9 AM and I will email a link to the video as soon as I can Sunday afternoon, instead of Monday.

I am still figuring out when I will be able to record Thanksgiving week, so I will have an update for that next week.

Advent worship is filled with special moments, and we will still be able to include those special moments, such as lighting an Advent wreath, special music, and all the wonderful buildup to our Christmas celebration.

More information will be included in Monday's Our Church—This Week.

This week in worship



This week we will finish our 4-week series on God the Creator.

We have been to Forests, prairies, and wilderness spaces. This week, we will discover God the Creator in rivers and streams. I invite you to download the Living the Creed PDF to learn about rivers in the Bible and rivers in America.

Do you know which American river has caught fire an astonishing 14 times since 1858? Download the PDF to learn the answer and so much more about rivers and streams.

Helping with online worship for November 22

Music: Janice Algren

Worship Assistant: Chip Algren

Did you get the Robo-Call on Thursday afternoon around 5 PM?

If you did not, please contact the church office so we can make sure your phone number is correct in our system. Also, if you would prefer phone calls to your cell-phone or to your home phone, we need to know that as well. And we won't know unless you call the church office. Angela is ready to assist and wants to help you get these robo-calls.

I thought our first one might be for snow. There is no snow. There is just this on-going pandemic causing us to constantly adjust our ministry to new practices. We will get through this only by helping each other.

Altar Decorations for online worship

As we return to entirely on-line worship, we are suspending altar flowers once again as well.

What isn't suspended—the need to donate what we might spend on Poinsettia's for December's Vision and Purpose Giving to support the Warren County Ministerial Association Emergency Fund administered by the Jamieson Center.

The youth will still color the poinsettia coloring sheets and label who donated and for whom it is in memory/honor of. We will include a video of our glass wall in the narthex as it collects these colorings throughout the Advent Season.

As we enter into the Advent Season, the sanctuary will still be decorated so we can appreciate our holiday décor through our video worship. Thank you to Connie Larimer again for helping coordinate this year our beautiful holiday sanctuary.

Blessings

Jesus said, "Therefore, go and ..."

Matthew 28:18a

Most of you read that half verse I just shared and in your heads you automatically filled in the rest ... go and make disciples, baptizing them ... teaching them ... and remember I am with you to the end of the age. These words from Jesus are the Great Commission, and for most of us, these words have been ingrained in our very conscious from as early as we can remember knowing any scripture.

Today, I want to focus on just the one word of this commission. Jesus said, "Go." It is a fascinating word. And for our entire lives, hearing Jesus say "Go" came with other automatic sentence fillers. "Go to church." "Go to Sunday School." "Go to Confirmation." In each of these cases, the word "Go" was followed by a specific location. "Go" to the building located at 116 South B Street. For me growing up, it was "Go" to the building located at 1111 N. Elmhurst Road, yes, I still remember the address of my home congregation. That's how this word "Go" is chiseled into our very faith-being. "Go" is attached to a place. But now, we cannot go to 116 South B Street. My mother cannot go to 1111 N. Elmhurst Road, the location of the church I grew up in and which she still attends. The pandemic has upended everything it means when we hear Jesus say "Go."

And we are frustrated. We are saddened. We grieve. We seek someone to blame, usually some politician of the opposite political party we are associated with. But what if this pandemic, that is complete with frustration, sadness, and grief, and blame, is also complete with a new way of thinking. Jesus is the Lord of Resurrection, and even in a pandemic time, we need newness of life. Maybe Jesus has been telling us to "Go" for so long that we have forgotten what it means to actually "Go." The word "Go" is an action verb. When we arrive somewhere and stop moving, we have ceased being in action. We have stopped "Go"-ing when we stop, park our cars, and sit in beloved pews. Maybe, just maybe, this on-"Go"-ing pandemic is forcing us to re-examine how we "Go" and where we are "Go"-ing. And when we remember to keep "Go"-ing, we find our resurrected life as we follow Jesus' command to "Go."

In Peace, Pastor Jamie