



Worship Notes

Friday, September 18, 2020

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dear Friends and Family,

We are in the middle of our third month back with in-person worship. I am very thankful for the positive feedback on how services are going. I appreciate everyone's respecting the mask and social distancing roles. I have noticed, we are starting to use our habitual replies. So easy to do, and I completely understand how we want to just say those short phrases. Frustrating as it is, we need to continue with only the worship assistant leading the responses. I am anxiously waiting for the day I can return the responses to the whole congregation. And one day we will get that green light. Until then, we will practice with patience only using our liturgical gestures.

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, Bob Kerschke, Ila Roseberry, Tucker Smith, Marjorie Swanson, Norman Worthington, Carmen, Evelyn Volz, Darrell Thirtyacre, Donna Larson, Jodie and Brad Haist, Beckie Bean 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

Thank you to all who bring offerings to worship.

Thank you to all who mail offerings to the office.

Thank you to all who continue electronic offerings.

Thank you to all designate offerings for special projects, like our capital fund campaign, vision and purpose giving, and many other ministry projects.



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.

This week in worship



The journey with Moses from the parted waters to the mountain of God was not an easy journey. Over 600,000 people traveled this road, and supplies were very tight. The people began complaining about the lack of food, and God provided in a spectacular way. What is it? They asked when the bread-like substance called Manna appeared on the ground in the morning. Manna is a Hebrew word that translates as "What is it?" What it is, is a gift from God. What it is, is substance and nourishment from the God of plenty. What is it today that God provides plenty of? Join us in worship and find

WORSHIP
VOLUNTEER
opportunities



This Week

Worship Assistant: Judy Sanberg

Usher: Steve Erlandson

Thank you to all who volunteer to assist in leading worship.

We have openings for altar flowers



**Altar
Flowers**

September 20	Diane Carlson
September 27	
October 4	Diane Carlson and Janice Algren
October 11	Linda McGuire

First Lutheran Youth

Our Youth Group is being reorganized for our new era. We held a zoom meeting Wednesday night. The youth will focus on World Hunger issues and will coordinate a couple World Hunger events for the congregation throughout the year. Planning is still in the early stages. But watch for exciting news from our Youth in the coming months.

The next Youth Zoom meeting will be September 30 at 7 PM. Zoom invite link will be mailed out closer to the meeting.

Living the Creed

Living the Creed is an opportunity to grow in faith at home.

This week's at home Living the Creed activity will look at the world hunger crisis. Using resources from the ELCA website and the ELCA World Hunger ministries, we will learn how our church is responding to hunger issues around the world, from our own backyard to our farthest neighbors.

God provided the manna in the wilderness. God provides plenty for today. Through our generosity that plenty can be experienced and no one should be hungry.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Blessings

Revelation 21:1-2

As the pandemic continues, there has been a lot more yearning for the old normal ways. We want to return to what life was like before. One of the struggles we face the most is the inconsistent way states, communities, schools, churches, and sports all treat this pandemic. Some are back to the old ways, and are forgoing the best practices in a pandemic. Others are holding higher standards for surviving the pandemic, refusing to resume anything in-person. It is overwhelming because we are caught in the middle of it all, not understanding why we can't be as free as some nor why others are as strict as they are.

From a faith perspective, we are seeking the newness God promises. As the pages of the mysterious book of Revelation conclude, the author sees a new heaven and a new earth descending from above to be right here on earth. A new earth is made right where we are. One of the things we sometimes get mixed up with this passage is we think of going to heaven as a 'going-up' experience, as if we leave this earth and go somewhere else to be with God. Yet Revelation is quite clear, God is not taking us somewhere else. God is coming to be right here.

What if this pandemic time is helping us to see God is coming to be right here. What if this pandemic time is helping us to see a new earth and a new heaven right here. This new earth and new heaven is a place of justice for all, where we have overcome all the divisions that used to be normal. This new earth and new heaven is where all are fed, where we have overcome the greed/poverty divide that used to be normal. This new earth and new heaven is where we are able to congregate once again, respecting social distances, practicing better hygiene, lifting up the health of our neighbor over our own needs. All our old norms were centered on the individual, perhaps this new heaven and new earth is about the community first. It is a lot to be asked to see this new earth and new heaven coming into reality, especially when our old normal ways are still a fresh memory and the only way we know how to live. That is why God gifts us with the faith to see and live in the new earth and new heaven God is bringing down to us not in the future, but today, even in the midst of the pandemic.

In peace,

Pastor Jamie