

The Guided Light

Memorial Lutheran & First Presbyterian Churches

July 2020

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Memorial Lutheran & First Presbyterian Churches

Happenings...

Every Sunday

Adult Sunday School ZOOM 9:00

Facebook Live Worship 10:15
10:15

Every Tuesday

Busy Bunch 9:00

Every Tuesday

Staff Meeting: 10:00 am

Every Thursday

FB Live Prayer Meeting 12:00

July 4

4th of July Independence Day

July 5

Care Team – call the homebound

July 13

Worship Committee ZOOM 6:00

July 20

Council Meeting 6:00 pm

July 29

Newsletter deadline

Have a happy and safe

4th of July!!!!

***Mission: "Growing the faith, connecting with the lost,
and helping those in need as we share God's Word
through education, sacraments, worship,
praise, and fellowship"***



Now the Lord is the Spirit,
and where the
Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17



Welcome to July! What a strange first half of 2020, eh? I recently saw a Facebook meme that said something like, “Essentially, back in 2010, everyone who answered the question ‘What do you see yourself doing in 10 years?’ got it wrong!” Who would have predicted that life would be so upended? I am grateful that we can depend on the faithfulness and on-going presence of God to get us through whatever comes down the pike during the second half of 2020.

The good news is that we are drawing ever closer to ending our time as a congregation in the call process! The committee has identified a couple of wonderful candidates who will be coming to visit us over the next few weeks. I am hoping that by mid-July that we will be able to announce that we have a finalist and schedule a congregational vote to extend a formal call to serve us.

Having said that, here’s how you can help...

If you have not yet provided the church office with documentation of your sacramental records (baptism, confirmation, membership) OR signed the affidavit to that effect, PLEASE take care of this ASAP! The office staff is currently scouring the database to determine who is eligible to cast a ballot for extending the call and, if the computer doesn’t think you are eligible, then you are NOT eligible! Of course, you have to also meet the attendance and financial contribution requirements, but that’s a different issue for a different admonition.

When our new shepherd does arrive, it will be under the most unique circumstances in 100 years—during a time of pandemic. The normal way a new pastor gets to know the parish is by being out in the midst of it—visiting the people and places, spending lots of time in conversation, etc. Our new pastor will have to do most of that via phone, Zoom, Facebook, etc. One way you can speed up their learning curve in getting to know us is to RESPOND to the various surveys I have been and will continue to send out. So far, I’ve sent 2 surveys—one on your level of comfort on returning to church and another on the current racial tensions in the country. There will be more coming, so please play the game!

Keep praying for our country, our local community, and our congregation. Last week your church council had to make the difficult decision to re-suspend in-person worship until the infection rate in Galveston County returns to acceptable levels to ensure your safety at church. There will come a point when we will be able to resume physical gatherings again. Until then, please use your sanctified common sense and take appropriate preventative measures when you are required to be out in public.

As always, the office staff is here for you. Let us know how we can help!

Pr. Steve

Due to the rising number of new Covid 19 cases in Galveston County, the Church Council has decided to suspend in-person worship until further notice. Sunday Service will continue to be live-streamed at 10:15 am on our Facebook page. Please take appropriate safety measures when you must be out in public. Hopefully, the numbers will come down soon enough and we will be able resume our in person gathering. Stay tuned for updates.



FROM BISHOP MICHAEL RINEHART

June 26, 2020

Dear Gulf Coast Leaders,

I wrote you just two days ago, but in that time cases on the Texas side of the synod have continued to surge, and Governor Abbott has just ordered bars closed and restaurants reduced to 50% capacity.

In light of Governor Abbott's statements regarding the spike in COVID-19 cases and his executive order to reverse the gradual opening of businesses, for the safety of the community, I strongly urge you not to move to reopen in-person worship at this time.

Gov. Abbot was very clear in his statement:

Every Texan has a responsibility to themselves and their loved ones to wear a mask, wash their hands, stay six feet apart from others in public, and stay home if they can. (Houston Chronicle 6/26/2020)

Our recommendations to you remain unchanged. Restarting in-person worship is contingent on a two-week decline in cases and fatalities. We have seen just the opposite. Positive test rates are now over 10%.

To our Louisiana colleagues I would offer the same wisdom. Your cases have remained low since the first spike. We hope to keep it that way, through your continued vigilance.

I know you share a deep love and care for your people. Love of neighbor and community are at the heart of the gospel. Love does no wrong to a neighbor. You are in my prayers daily.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Michael Rinehart



UFA Monthly Collection Items: Since food stamps can't be used to buy non-food items, the United Faith Alliance is asking churches to collect non-food items on a rotating basis. **Dishwashing liquid has been designated for the July collection.** Please place your donations in the grocery cart in the church narthex.

UFA Susan's Market also needs the following supplies: **Cereal, Hygiene products (shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste) canned fruit and canned meat are always welcomed.**

UFA Susan's market has volunteer opportunities every Friday. They are there 8:30 am-3:30 pm (need volunteers to stock shelves, wipe down shelves, help receive food truck delivery...etc.) any amount of volunteer hours will be appreciated.

**NewsLetter
DEADLINE**

Deadline for August news submissions is Wednesday, July 29.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 4 Doug Caldwell, Jr
July 5 Robert Wayne Bage
July 5 Carol Wyly
July 6 Donna Allison
July 6 Henry Meadows
July 8 R.H. Sanders
July 11 Randy Dietel
July 17 Rocky Schaper
July 20 Claude Monroe, Jr
July 21 Lloyd Jewell
July 25 Stephen Monson
July 28 Carolyn Rhame



July 3: Bill & Jaime Bailey
July 5: Dave & Joyce Palmer
July 12: Randy & Peggy Dietel
July 25: Dub & Billie Hansley
July 30: Donald & Lindsay Hood

In Our Prayers...

- Health Care Workers & 1st Responders
- Bill Wyly
- Joyce Palmer
- Dave Palmer
- Mike Allison
- Donna Allison
- Rocky Schaper
- Peggy Armstrong
- Catherine Brown
- Bev Churchwell
- Imogene Christian

- Betty Coulthard
- Linda Duncan
- Kathryn Franks
- Mary Guajardo
- Thomas Kaye
- Joe King
- Juanita Lux
- Shirley Martinez
- Kathryn McKaig
- Carol J. Rhodes
- David Robinson
- Theresa Smith
- Frances & Larry Weber
- Martha Welch
- Barbara Bradford
- Mary Bradford
- Shirley Cato
- Gerald Cleveland
- Patia Darras
- Carolina Diaz
- Terry Dellolio
- Beth Eslinger
- Ben Gayle
- Lindsay Grigsby
- Ira (Dubby) Hansley
- Barbara Heckendorn

- Maryem Holt
- Shirley Long
- John Marshall
- Danny Meyer
- Alice Metcalf
- Karla Peschka
- Karly Sevinsky
- James Thompson
- Ralph Ray Snarr, Jr.
- Wm. Knichel

Military:

- Alexis Copeland
- Marshal Fundling
- Kaleb Jacobs
- Andrew Redmon
- Georgie Rodriquez, Jr.
- Peri Schoppe



Lutherhill - Virtual Day Camp

All the fun of camp - wherever life finds you!
Living Word Lutheran Church in Katy and Lutherhill Ministries have joined forces to create a virtual day camp experience - free for all!

Each day will offer camp songs, bible stories, arts & crafts, solo challenges and spirituality practices.

We'll explore the theme VISION 2020: To see as God sees. To see the intricate beauty and grand majesty of creation. To see all people made in the image of God. To see and embrace who God created us to be. Bring on the Revelation.

Happy Campers can join the fun each day or spread out the experience over several weeks - choose your own adventure. You can invite a friend from your neighborhood to join you. Or virtually gather with your church family to follow along together.

Virtual Day Camp will be accessible (coming soon!) through lutherhill.org

You'll have access to videos, printables and more. This is a free resource available for all - made possible by Living Word Lutheran Church and Lutherhill.

Please visit Lutherhill.org for additional information.

Greetings from Lutherhill Ministries,

Due to the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in the state of Texas, Lutherhill Ministries will CLOSE for all in-person camps this Summer.

With heavy hearts, the Board of Directors and the Staff of Lutherhill Ministries has news to share.

After consulting our Advisory Panel consisting of medical professionals, camper parents and synod leadership as well health officials, the board of directors unanimously voted to cancel all residential summer camp programs for this summer.

As we face struggles we have never experienced before, every decision has been guided by the health and safety of campers and staff, stewardship of the investment donors and camper families make in Lutherhill and the rich tradition of offering meaningful experiences.

As cases of COVID-19 are on the rise in the state of Texas, it has become alarmingly clear that gathering campers at Lutherhill is not the safest option for them, our camper families and our staff.

This is not the summer we imagined.

While we will not gather for residential summer camp, we are re-imagining how the joy of camp might still come to life this summer.

Stay tuned for more information on Virtual Camp coming soon! The real joy of camp comes to life in meaningful connection. We hope your happy camper will join us for virtual worship, bible study, sing-a-long, all camp and more! It's not the summer camp experience we imagined, but it can still be really good!