

THE JOTTINGS

The Newsletter of Jehovah Lutheran Church

1566 Thomas Ave, Saint Paul MN 55104 • 651-644-1421 • www.jehovahlutheran.org

A Community of Joy . . . Celebrating, Learning & Sharing the Love of God in Christ Jesus



Month of:
January 2021

Rooted In the Living Word



SUNDAYS

WORSHIP ONLINE

9:30 a.m.



Join us for online worship at
jehovahlutheran.online

Stay Informed
on our Church Website:
www.jehovahlutheran.org



Your gifts support our mission.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

We are not yet keeping regular onsite office hours. We are responding to phone messages regularly. You can also reach us at jelcoffice@gmail.com.

Email submissions for
THE JOTTINGS BY JANUARY 22ND to
jelcoffice@gmail.com

SCRIPTURES FOR WORSHIP

January 3: Jeremiah 31:7-14, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:10-18

January 10: Genesis 1:1-5, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1: 4-11

January 17: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

January 24: Jonah 3:1-5,10, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

January 31: Deuteronomy 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"Surrounded by God's Good and Gracious Powers"

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Prayer for a New Year

Sometimes on New Year's Eve, we are just happy that a year is over. Sometimes a year has been so filled with suffering, sorrow, sickness, and death that we just want to be done with it. 2020 has been one of those years. At the same time, we may also look upon the coming year with trepidation: another year in which we strive unsuccessfully to get accomplished all we hope to do, another year filled with yet unknown anxieties. What tragedies await us this year? Who will fall ill this year? Who will be taken from us too soon? What events will rend our hearts in two?

Sitting in his basement prison cell in a Nazi prison, doubtlessly Dietrich Bonhoeffer felt similar sadness, fears, and anxieties for the future. Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran theologian and pastor in Berlin, Germany throughout Adolf Hitler's entire reign of terror. Bonhoeffer opposed the Nazi's takeover of the Lutheran churches in Germany and also participated in plots to assassinate Hitler and set-up a new government in his homeland. Bonhoeffer was arrested in late 1943 and spent the entire year of 1944 behind bars in Tegel Prison, separated from his friends, his family, his fiancée, and his church. There must not have seemed like much for which he could thank God in the past year.

Bonhoeffer must have known that the coming year held yet more bad news for him, and indeed it did. In early 1945, the SS moved him to concentration camps at first Buchenwald and later Flossenbürg. It was there that Bonhoeffer would join the ranks of those murdered by the darkness of Hitler's monstrous Third Reich and, more importantly, the ranks of the saints triumphant whose light is the Lamb of God.

continued . . .

With such a past, present, and unknown future, one would not expect much in the way of hope for a good New Year for Bonhoeffer. And yet, in the damp, cold darkness of his cell, bereft of light, friends, and family, Bonhoeffer wrote his last theological work, a poem, entitled, “Von Guten Mächten Wunderbar Geborgen,” a text full of hope in the graciousness and power of God. This poem has since been made into a hymn and may be found in the German Lutheran hymnal.

Rebecca Jorgensen (a musician at our sister parish, King of Kings in Roseville) and I have translated the hymn into English. I hope that this hymn may bring you encouragement in your walk with the Lord this coming year. In it, in spite of all of his suffering and an uncertain but almost certainly dark future, Bonhoeffer proclaims that he will live out his days without fear, “come what may,” because his life is still wrapped in the power of God’s grace. We sang this hymn in worship at the beginning of 2020. How little we knew that its words would ring so true in that year! With so many unknowns before us in 2021, I think it is fitting for us now as well.

Whatever may be going on in our lives, we need the message of God’s grace that Bonhoeffer proclaims here. We need the all-enveloping love of God in Christ confessed by this preacher who is about to cross over into the arms of his Savior. God is present with us through good times and bad, at morning and evening, through light and dark, and promises to go with us into the future. This is the only thing that can get us through this life. In the midst of suffering, temptation, and fear that would lead us into despair, the light of God shines, because He has entered into our world as the Child of Mary, became one of us, experienced life with all of its hardships, died, and was raised to life again for us. As the author of Hebrews tells us, “We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses.” We have a high priest, and God, in Christ who knows all of our sorrows and took them with him to the cross, dying in our place, giving us His salvation in exchange for our suffering, His life for our death. Because of that, we can face whatever life holds for us, because our Savior and God has gone before us and goes with us into the future, “come what may.”

In the third verse of his hymn, Bonhoeffer puts this truth to us in this way:

“And should you offer us the cup of sorrow,
Which undergoing suffering demands;
We’ll not tremble now or tomorrow,
For it comes from your precious, loving hand.”



The reason that we can accept the cup of suffering of which Bonhoeffer writes—and from which he personally drank so deeply—is because the hand that gives it to us bears the marks of the nails of the cross. The reason we can go into the coming year with hope is not because of some trite idea of starting the New Year right. It is because our God, Jesus Christ, goes before us and with us. We have no idea what 2021 will hold for any of us. We don’t know what successes, failures, triumphs, tragedies, sicknesses, or deaths await us. Of one thing, however, we can be absolutely sure: that God, our Savior, holds us all in his nail-pierced hand, and that He goes with us.

*What my father has given to me is greater than all,
and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.*

John 10:29

Continued . . .

Surrounded by God's Good and Faithful Powers

*Surrounded by God's good and faithful powers,
So wonderfully sheltered and held dear;
So will I live with you these waning hours,
And go together into this New Year.*

Chorus:

*So wonderfully surrounded by good powers,
We await with hope, come what may!
God is with us at eve and morning hours,
And goes with us into each new day.*

*The old year still wants now to torment us,
And evil days oppress us with what's done.
Calm, O Lord, the terror still within us,
With the salvation for us You have won!
(Chorus)*

*And should you offer us the cup of sorrow,
Which undergoing suffering demands;
We'll not tremble now or tomorrow,
For it comes from your precious, loving hand.
(Chorus)*

*And when then Your joy again You send us,
And in our world the sun so brilliant shines;
Then we recall all good that you have giv'n us,
For our lives are wrapped in Yours divine.
(Chorus)*

*This eve then let these candles burn and warm us,
For our darkness has been broken by Your light;
Go into our lives now with us,
We know that You shine forth into our night!
(Chorus)*

*When the silence spreads now all around us,
And then we hear the New Year's ringing sound;
We join our voices then with saints and angels
Who unendingly, with praise Your throne sur-
round!*

Chorus:

*So wonderfully surrounded by good powers,
We await with hope, come what may!
God is with us at eve and morning hours,
And goes with us into each new day.*

German Text, *Von Guten Mächten Wunderbar Geborgen*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. *Evangelisches Gesangbuch. Ausgabe für die Evangelisch-Lutherischen Kirchen in Bayern und Thüringen. 2. Auflage* (München: Evangelischer Presseverband für Bayern, 1995), 132.

English Translation: Rebekah Jorgensen and Joshua C. Miller



2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE

The JELC offering envelopes are available for pickup for those attending communion this Sunday, January 3, and for the next few Sundays. We will begin mailing or delivering the other envelope boxes starting the week of January 4. If you have any questions please call Sue Puder 612-803-6580.

A New Year, a New YouTube Channel!

Jehovah Lutheran has begun a new channel on YouTube. Check it out!
www.youtube.com/channel/UCdLy0HeNI3NlwQh-mN7Qjsg

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

Genesis 1:1-5

God overcame the chaos of the watery abyss and primordial night, creating an inhabitable world with light and the separation of waters.

Act. 19:1-7

Paul finds "disciples" in Ephesus who know only the baptism of John. Paul baptizes them in the name of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit came upon them.

Mark 1:4-11

John prepares the way for Jesus who is identified by a voice from heaven as "my Son, the Beloved,"

Adult BIBLE CLASS



Join us on Sundays at 11:00am on Zoom

<https://augzburg.zoom.us/j/95736940038?pwd=c1J3M3NHajZZNnlMenFHREJrU3lpdz09>

Meeting ID: 957 3694 0038

Passcode: 255875

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Donna Ostenson Kiefert
 Bernice Demulling
 Rita Galston
 Paul Finegan
 George Mendoza
 Sandy Quenzer
 Tom Kelly
 Tim Robinson
 Patrick Carey
 Shirley Starner, and her son-in-law Greg Beaudoin
 Dick Westphal
 Linda Wood
 Ramone and his family

Those suffering or recovering from COVID-19, including:

Pr. Jim Bender
 Chris and Justin (sister-in-law and nephew of Sandy Kolar)
 Rev. Bob and Rita Knutson (brother-in-law and sister of Charlie Avoles)

The Wegner family on the passing of his Aunt Carol.

For our nation in the midst of political turmoil.

For our state and communities as we grapple with another police shooting and its effects.

For our Synod and District and all parishes of the LCMS as we vote to move our convention dates due to COVID-19.

For our Synodical President Matthew Harrison and our District President Lucas Woodford as they lead us in these and other decisions, seeking to protect the lives of those weakest among us.



*Let my prayer
 rise before you as incense.
 Psalm 141:2a*



JANUARY

- 2 Delaree Johnson
- 3 Julie Wynn
- 5 Gunnar Miesen
Katie Benke
- 7 Julie Quist
- 10 Jim Kinsel
- 12 Bernice Demulling
- 19 Christian Koch
- 22 Debbie Gagner
- 28 Chris Koch
- 29 Tony Avoles
- 30 Charlie Avoles
- 31 Matthew Baerthel

★ HAPPY ★
BIRTHDAY!

*The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face
shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face
toward you
and give you peace.*

Numbers 6: 24-26

COAT GIVEAWAY JANUARY 22 DONATIONS WELCOME

Jehovah Lutheran Church will host a winter coat and jacket drive-through giveaway from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, January 22, in the church parking lot at 1566 Thomas in St. Paul.

All wishing to select one or more garments, child to adult sizes, can drive through the church parking lot — entry on Asbury near Thomas — and make selections from their vehicles. Volunteers will show and load garments for recipients. Walkup giveaways are available as well.

Please wear face coverings and maintain social distance.

Anyone wishing to donate new or gently used winter wear, child to adult sizes, can drop off garments at Jehovah Lutheran from 9 a.m.-noon Sundays through Fridays. Final donations will be accepted 9 a.m.-noon on Thursday, January 21.

One other drop-off location is King of Kings Lutheran Church, 2330 Dale Ave. N., Roseville. Leave donated garments in the church's outdoor bin, accessible 24 hours, seven days a week. A third partner in the giveaway is the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department.

Volunteers are needed to sort garments at 4 p.m. Monday, January 18, and at 4 p.m. Thursday, January 21, at Jehovah Lutheran.

Volunteers are also needed beginning at 9:30 a.m. Friday, January 22, to set up the coat giveaway in the church parking lot and to load coats after recipients make selections.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Jehovah Lutheran at 651-644-1421 or jelcoffice@gmail.com, or Pastor Vue Lee at King of Kings (612-540-0710, vlee@kingofkingsroseville.org).



EARTH CARE

"THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S ..." PSALM 24:1

This column intends to highlight ways to care for God's creation.
Maynard and Shirley Dorow have pursued earth care issues and welcome your feedback.

"Heaven and nature sing," we are singing these twelve days of Christmas. Part of that nature is birds, created on the fifth day by God when he said, "... and let birds fly above the earth and across the expanse of the sky and let the birds increase on the earth." And, my, how they did increase! Latest estimates of world bird population reach into the billions with thousands of species, every color imaginable, gorgeous songs that beckon us to watch them with awe.



This "awe-full" bird watching has been part of the life of CSP retired professor of biology, Robert Holtz, since he was a child. He recommends taking his "Chickadee Challenge" as a way of letting nature sing in your heart. The challenge is to see how many consecutive days you can see a Chickadee (or other bird of your choice). He got up to 678 days! Bob also reminds us that the past 50 years have seen a dramatic decrease in the bird population.



We not only need to watch and to "Feed the Birds," as the song goes, but to protect them. Natural bird deaths are to be expected, but currently larger scale deaths are disturbing. Pesticides kill 72 million birds directly and more in long term. Birds striking buildings account for at least 97 million deaths per year. Open oil sludge storage sites are covered with dead migrating birds who land in the sludge and can't get out. But the largest killer of birds in America is loss of habitat to development. Birds eat insects and are essential components of the ecosystem. They care for the earth; we need to care for them.

Birds have been special through the ages. We recently discovered the "hidden meaning" in the song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," where birds play a big part. First printed in 1780 the song tells the story in code of Christian belief which believers in England were not allowed to confess publicly at that time. It was a secret catechism of church doctrine with the partridge in the pear tree being Christ who died on a tree and the "True Love" being God the Father who gave us all the gifts. Here are the hidden gifts:

The partridge in the pear tree is Jesus.

The two turtledoves are the Old and New Testament.

Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.

Four Calling (originally Colly/Black) Birds are the four Gospels

Five Gold rings recall the Pentateuch.

Six geese a-laying are six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Ten Lords a-leaping are the ten commandments.

Eleven pipers piping represent the eleven faithful Apostles.

Twelve drummers symbolize twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles Creed.

Watching and wondering at birds is one small step in carrying out God's call to us to care for his earth.... and also (see Genesis 1:22) to let the birds increase, not decrease, on the earth.

NEWS OF OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED ... AND HOW TO HELP!



Keystone aims to provide quality, healthy food and programs to help families become self-sufficient, stable, and successful. As the need increases, Keystone is revving up to support more people through the Foodmobile, crisis support, and additional food and donation programs.

Your generosity and kindness are providing connection and vital resources for thousands of people in our area. Thank you for supporting our neighbors and strengthening our community through your donations. This is especially important as more people are turning to Keystone for help. Please continue to support our food shelves and the programs that allow youth, families and seniors the support they need to live with quality of life, hope and dignity.

Together, we're all stronger!

* Please note: Thank you for providing bags. Jehovah is well stocked for now. We'll let you know as the need for more bags arises.

NEW FREEDOM STORE



"... he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed"... Luke 14:18

Today is a very special day for the New Freedom Store. The students at Eastern Heights Lutheran School have put together another 100 COVID-19 kits for the homeless. You may remember that they have also assembled some one hundred sock kits too. The word kindness comes to mind, but there is more.

Today also, there is another storm front coming in, six more inches, a nuisance for most of us. But snow is something entirely different for the homeless. Snow is downright life threatening in any number of ways.

So today my friend Jay from Radies Health came by to pick up those COVID-19 kits along with warm clothes and food. He will be working late tonight, distributing as much as he can even after the snow begins to fly. He writes, "Gifts such as yours mean a great deal. It isn't just the material items, valuable though they are. It is the gift without need of explanation, the act that comes with no demand. It is kindness."

Kindness, yes, but this good work is closely connected with another word, "hero." Men like Jay are heroes of course, but so are those good students at Eastern Heights. Jesus Christ, of course, chose to go out of his way and minister almost entirely to the poor. He is the greatest hero of us all.



JOIN US FOR OUR FRIENDLY FRIDAY CALL IN CHAT

We chat at **11:10am each Friday**. All you need is your phone. Dial: 978-990-5000. If you are using a land line please dial 1 and then the number. When prompted enter the JELC code:

796345#

After the beep just say hello and your name. We can visit about how our days are going, silver linings, concerns, etc. We will also have a short devotion and prayer.

**Call in and join us for our next Friendly Friday chat
This Friday, January 8 at 11:10am.**



MAIN STREET LIVING | SUNDAYS 9 – 10 a.m. | WFTC CHANNEL 29/9-2

Main Street Living is an LCMS program that features pastors from the WFTC, channel 29/9-2, viewer area. The first half hour is a reproduction of *This is the Life*. The second half hour is a modified Lutheran worship service, which is produced locally. Program information for January is below. To watch, go to mainstreetliving.com and select the “Twin Cities” tab.

January 3: “A Friend in Deed” The program explores the Christian’s duty to forgive those who have done us wrong.

January 10: “God of Love” Today’s program illustrates how all Christians have responsibilities. It is a cross we bear.

January 17: “Adrift” This program discusses the effectiveness of children who witness for Christ.

January 24: “The Hand of God” Today’s program deals with turning problems into opportunities.

January 31: “The Point of No Return” This program discusses God’s limitless grace.



Concordia University St. Paul invites you to view their 2020 virtual Christmas concert, "Go Tell It on the Mountain".

The concert can be viewed through January 15 at this link:

<https://www.csp.edu/event/christmasconcert2020/>



ACTIVITY CALENDAR



January 2021

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						



Behold,
I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?
I will make a way
in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:19



3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30am Online Worship jehovahlutheran. online In-person Communion 10:00 & 10:30am	Lay Ministry Meeting 6:30pm	Coat Donations 9am - Noon	Coat Donations 9am - Noon	Coat Donations 9am - Noon	Coat Donations 9am - Noon Friendly Friday Chat 11:10am	
9:30am 10 Online Worship jehovahlutheran. online In-person Communion 10:00 & 10:30am Coat Donations 9am - Noon	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Coat Donations 9am - Noon	Coat Donations 9am - Noon	Coat Donations 9am - Noon	Coat Donations 9am - Noon ARB Meeting 6:30 pm	Coat Donations 9am - Noon Friendly Friday Chat 11:10am	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30am Online Worship jehovahlutheran. online In-person Communion 10:00 & 10:30am Coat Donations 9am - Noon	Coat Donations 9am - Noon Coat Sorting 4pm Council Meeting 6:30pm Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	Coat Donations 9am - Noon	Coat Donations 9am - Noon	Coat Sorting 4pm	Coat Giveaway 11am-3pm Friendly Friday Chat 11:10am Jottings Articles due	
24/31*	25	26	27	28	29	30
Online Worship jehovahlutheran. online In-person Communion 10am & 10:30am 	Online Voters' Meeting 11:30am January 31				Friendly Friday Chat 11:10am	