



NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

The End of All Stories: Death

Currently, my wife and I are enjoying watching the documentary series about the life of Ernest Hemingway on PBS. Both of us have read most of Hemingway's work. He is one of our favorite authors.

One of things I like most about Hemingway is that he is honest and straightforward, even when he is telling tall tales. Recently, I have begun re-reading Hemingway's book on Spanish bullfighting in the early 19030's, *Death in the Afternoon*. In this non-fiction work, Hemingway tells the story of this controversial and lethal sport in vivid color.

Whatever we may feel about the ethics of bullfighting, there is something to recognize here. Bullfighting, like life, is brutal, ugly, and deadly. Hemingway expresses this last truth through a fictional conversation he creates between himself and a female spectator. This fictional woman deplores bullfighting for its cruelty and goriness. Above all, she detests bullfighting because it ends in death.

"I find that a sad story, sir," she says.

"Madame, all stories, if continued far enough, end in death, and he is no true story-teller who would keep that from you."

Hemingway speaks truth here. As much as we might like life to be sugar coated, we all know that it ends in death. Each time a child is born, we know their life will end in death. Each time we see a friend or loved one, it could be the last time. Each time we talk to someone, it could be the last time.

The truth is, death **will** happen.

Sometimes we are good at hiding that truth. The pandemic that has raged around the world has recently disabused us of the ability to hide that truth. The truth of death is readily known to us all. Death is the truth. The story of life ends with death.

But it is only half of the truth.

The other half of the truth is resurrection.

continued ...

*For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.*

1 Thessalonians 4:14



Hemingway was right, but he was only half-way right. The story of life ends with death, but that end is not **the** end. The end of Jesus' life was death, but then that end became a new beginning. When we get to the end of the story of Jesus' life, Jesus dies. Then we turn the page and read: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen!"

Death is the end, but then after the end, there is resurrection!

Death was the end for Jesus, but then, Jesus was raised and alive!

Death is the end for us, but then we too will be raised by Jesus and alive!

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Alleluia, amen!

Your Pastor,
Joshua Miller

1 Ernest Hemingway, *Death in the Afternoon* (New York: Scribners, 1932, republished 1960), 122.

2 Luke 24:5-6.

JOIN US AS JESUS PREPARES US FOR HIS MISSION OF GROWING THE CHURCH!



Divine Service – 9:30AM each Sunday

Live service in the sanctuary

Pre-recorded service also continues online for those unable to attend in person

Sermon series, "Jesus Takes it All" continues

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Acts 3:12-19

"By faith in the name of Jesus" a crippled man is healed by Peter, who then proclaims to the astonished crowd that God calls them to repent and receive forgiveness in this Jesus, the risen Christ.

1 John 3:1-7

God has lavished his love on us, calling us his children who now live holy lives and hold to the hope of being like him when appears.

Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus opens the minds of his disciples to understand that his rising fulfilled the Scriptures and that repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations.



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IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Donna Ostenson Kiefert
Bernice Demulling
Rita Galston
Paul Finegan
George Mendoza
Sandy Quenzer
Tom Kelly
Tim Robinson (especially on the death of his aunt)
Patrick Carey
Wesley Pagel
Shirley Starner, and her son-in-law Greg Beaudoin
Barbara Hunn-Miesen (thanksgiving and continued healing)
Mark Miesen
Jim Kinsel
Lynn Baerthel and her family
John "Jack" Hedenstrom (brother of Sue and brother-in-law of Al Puder)
Linda Wood
Jeannie Edwards (Cousin of Pastor Miller)
Susan Boettcher
Ramone and his family



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

Those suffering or recovering from COVID-19 and for speedy and equitable distributions of the vaccines.

For the Monge family (friends of the Kolars) who are suffering COVID-19 and grieving. Healing to Kris (mother) as she is hospitalized with this virus. God's peace for John (father), and Noah (brother) on the death of their son and brother, Nathan.

For President Biden and Vice President Harris as they serve our nation.

For Governor Walz and all in leadership in our state. For our communities once again wrestling with pain and questions after a police-related shooting.

For the family and friends of Daunte Wright was killed in an apparent accident. Comfort those who have lost a father, son, and companion.

For our Synodical President Matthew Harrison and our District President Lucas Woodford as they lead us.

For our congregation, its pastor, and its lay leaders as we consider how to be the Church of Jesus Christ in this time and place.

continued ...



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Special Weekly Prayers:

As we pray for each member and family in our congregation by name, this week we pray for the Carlson Family and Michael Cross.

As we pray for each congregation on our Circuit and their pastors by name, this week we pray for Our Saviour's Lutheran, St. Paul, and Pastor Brian Scoles.

*Note, we are currently praying for two members or families from Jehovah Lutheran each week. The order for these prayers is alphabetical. In addition to our public prayers, our pastor and board of Lay Ministry are praying individually for these members and families each week.

Special prayer requests are encouraged any time and may be given to pastor via phone or email.

*Be joyful always; pray continually;
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Join us on Zoom
at 11:00AM each Sunday.

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

Meeting ID: 957 3694 0038
Passcode: 255875

We'll be studying the post-resurrection stories of Jesus
Contact Pastor Miller with questions.



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Dear Sisters and Brothers at Jehovah Lutheran Church,

The Board of Lay Ministry and I are beginning to plan post-COVID outreach in our community. We are working together through this process with the LCMS Office of National Mission through a program called Re:Vitality.

You are invited to participate in the beginning stages of this process by responding to an assessment of aspects of our life together as a congregation. This assessment is called "CADDS."

Completion of the assessment will take around 15 minutes. The dates for completing it are April 11 - May 2. We would like as many people to respond as possible. I look forward to your help in completing CADDS, as we all give honest and compassionate responses to the questions posed to us.

Stay tuned to Faith Bites and our website, www.jehovahlutheran.org, for updates on how to complete this assessment.

Thank you for your help.

God's blessings to each of you!

Pastor Joshua Miller

Celebrating our Seniors!



Our Senior Celebration will take place the weekend of May 1st.

If you are 80+ years young,

look for an invitation in the mail in the coming weeks.

Due to COVID we will be delivering a box lunch to your home.

Stay tuned for further details.



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JEHOVAH SPRING SPRUCE-UP



Please join us for the Jehovah Spring Spruce-Up event on **Saturday, April 24th from 9am to Noon!** Roll up your sleeves or put on a pair of gloves as we clean up, spruce up, and plant some beautiful spring flowers in good stewardship of our property and to enhance the neighborhood. Inside and outside tasks will be available. Most materials will be provided by Jehovah, but hand-held gardening tools would be helpful. One volunteer with a truck to dispose of yard waste would be welcome. Come and go as your schedule allows! Masks (even outdoors) and social distancing will be required. A limited time of "tailgate" fellowship will be held afterward in the parking lot, including BYOS (Bring Your Own Snack) and water, camp chairs, etc. Please call the church office at 651-644-1421 with any questions.

Some of the projects we will tackle:

1. Trash/Yard Waste -outside
2. Planting – outside
3. Weeding and plant trimming
4. Bagging remaining winter coats ready for pickup – inside
5. Nursery tidying (moving items to proper locations, cleaning tables, boxing up items – inside



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JEHOVAH'S WEEKLY FRIENDLY FRIDAY CALL-IN CHAT

Join us 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 JEJC code:

796345#

After the beep just say hello and your name. We will have a short devotion, a topic for discussion, and prayer.

Join us on Fridays at 11:10am.



*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,
as indeed you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11*

AN UPDATE FROM REZEK HOUSE



For the first time since last summer the Rezek House is full and the new residents are settling in nicely, thanks in no small part to the wonderful donations they received over the last months. It helps make the first experience for these youth one of security and care, and helps set the tone towards success along their path. Thanks to your donations Reek House is well stocked on food and cleaning supplies. You are greatly appreciated! For the new move-ins Rezek needs the following items this month:

- Pillow sets
- Neutral color and patterned twin sized sheet sets/bed in a bag
- Pot and pan sets
- Silverware sets
- Garbage cans for both kitchen and bathroom
- Mop and broom sets
- Swiffer packs (handle and pads)
- Gift cards

*thank
you*



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NEWS FROM THE NEW FREEDOM STORE



It's official. The New Freedom Store will be assisting Damascus Way, a Christian halfway house in Golden Valley, providing them with welcome kits, clothing and sundries, and volunteer services. This is a wonderful opportunity. This is why. The rate of recidivism in this country runs about 67% within three years of release and 80% for ten. The recently released need time to get on their feet especially in an unforgiving society, especially since so many had struggled to adjust in the first place. Damascus way provides a Christian faith based approach as their residents live and work under qualified Christian care. The rate of recidivism is just 7%.

We kindly ask you to help in this mission. We need drivers, not just to pick up those recently released from prison, but also to provide an occasional treat. We would like drivers to take them to visit their families, especially before and after the holidays. This is part of a plan called Meeting at the Gate. For security reasons we need men or couples, having a normal Christian conversation, continuing to create and to right relationships. This is what we do. This is how we fill His House.

Graduation is coming soon. If you would like to help in this way, please fill out the form below and return it to Jim Seeman. Contact Jim with any questions at seemann@csp.edu

Blessings everyone!

**Minnesota South District
Meeting at The Gate
Contact Form**

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Will you be traveling as a couple?

Have you been vaccinated for Covid?

Email this to Jim Seemann at seemann@csp.edu

This form will be shared with a participating halfway house



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LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR BY GETTING VACCINATED!



Now is the time to get yourself vaccinated against COVID -19.

The President has confirmed that a majority of U.S. adults will be eligible for the vaccine by April 19. In a recent 24 hour period, more than 4 million doses were administered. By getting vaccinated, you reduce your risk level as well as those with whom you socialize. You have the opportunity to help reduce the number of those who die from COVID-19, as well as bringing the pandemic to an earlier finish. Follow this link to the state's vaccine connector:

<https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/connector/connector.jsp>

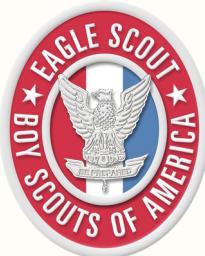
Do not let this opportunity for healing pass you by.

- Lydia Volz



Eagle Scout Project

Hi, my name is Logan Jarvi I am a junior at Mounds View High School and a Boy Scout in troop 200. I have been in the scouting program since I was 7 years old and I am now working on my Eagle Scout project at Jehovah Lutheran Church. I was connected with Sandy Kolar, who was previously a leader in Scouts, and is also a member of Jehovah and she assisted in finding a project for me. The project will be to construct a new fence on the edge of the Church parking lot and I'm excited to work with the Jehovah community to get it done. If you are willing to donate to defray the cost for this, please send or drop off your donation at Jehovah Lutheran Church and indicate with your donation, "Eagle Scout Project". Thank you for your support.



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