



NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

From Fear to Sharing the Good News

During the Easter Season, in Adult Bible Class, we are reading through the post-resurrection appearance of Jesus to His disciples. These appearances are found in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, Acts 1, and John 20-21. Studying these readings will prepare us to reach out with the saving and healing Gospel of Christ. I invite all of you to join us on Zoom as we look at these texts together.

The overarching theme in all of these texts is how Jesus prepares His disciples to go out into all the world and preach the Good News of His death and resurrection and the forgiveness of sins to all people. Right after the resurrection, the disciples are hiding. They are huddled together behind locked doors, afraid that the religious leaders who handed over Jesus to death will seek their deaths too! But at the end of each of these accounts, the disciples are ready to fulfill Jesus' commission to bring His Good News to all.

Jesus brought about this dramatic shift in the attitude of the disciples by appearing to them and giving to them His peace. Jesus brings His peace through opening the Scriptures to the disciples and explaining that His death, resurrection, and commissioning of them to preach the Good News, fulfills the entire Old Testament (Luke 24). Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to the disciples to empower them to forgive sins in His name (John 20). Jesus reveals Himself in the breaking of the bread (Luke 24).

Jesus reveals Himself to the disciples, gives them the authority and power to carry on His work, and gives them the Word and Sacraments (Scripture, preaching, the forgiveness of sins, baptism, and Holy Communion) as the means through which He will continue to be present with them, even after He is taken from their sight.

As we hear these accounts today at Jehovah Lutheran Church in 2021, we too are empowered to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to others. Like the disciples, we have reasons to fear today. We have reasons to stay locked away. We have reasons to be silent.

Yet, Jesus has given us a commission to go tell others about His Good News. While we rightfully continue practicing caution regarding COVID-19, we can still joyfully follow our Lord's commission. While we do wonder what is going to happen next in our troubled society, we still follow Jesus and reach out to those who do not know Him or who are discouraged and weak in faith. We fulfill that commission, we reach out, because Jesus empowers us the same way He empowered the disciples after His resurrection.

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Mark 16:15

continued...



As Jesus came to His disciples after He was raised from the dead, so He also comes to us. Jesus comes to us, giving us His presence and His peace, forgiving our sins, settling our hearts, and sending us forth in His name. Jesus comes to us through the Word and Sacraments, and through these means, He is just as present with us as He was with the disciples!

Jesus comes to us through the Scriptures, opening our hearts to understand His Word. Jesus comes to us through the Absolution, telling us that our sins are truly forgiven and reminding us that we have been adopted as children of the heavenly Father and have received the Holy Spirit's power through our Baptism. Jesus comes to us through the preaching of the Gospel, bringing peace to our hearts and urging us to share that peace with others. Jesus comes to us in the breaking of the bread, in His holy supper, where He gives us His very self and strengthens us for the journey into the world where we share His Good News.

Through the Word and the Sacraments, the means of grace, Jesus prepares us to share the Gospel, just as He also prepared His disciples to do. Sent forth washed, fed, forgiven, settled, and strengthened, we can go with courage and confidence into an uneasy world and an uncertain age with the promise of Jesus' presence.

When we go, following the commission of our Lord, we bring the means of grace with us as the tools for making yet more disciples. As we begin outreach in our community and in our lives we do so through the Word and Sacraments. We go in Jesus' name to bring the Word and Sacraments to people, and people to the Word and Sacraments.

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!
Alleluia, amen!

Your Pastor,
Joshua Miller



VOTERS' MEETING

The Voters' Meeting will be held via Zoom on

Sunday, May 2
11:00 a.m.

Your prospectus will be sent by email. You will receive it by Sunday, April 25. You will receive the Zoom link by email as well. There will be a phone alternative for those without computer access. More information will be coming soon.



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

Let the
Word of Christ
dwell in you richly
Colossians 3:16

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested for preaching.

Now by the Spirit Peter proclaims that his healing a cripple was by the name of the resurrected Jesus in whose name alone we must be saved.

1 John 3:16-24

We know God's love in that Jesus laid down his life for us.

So we, by his Spirit abiding in us, believe in the name of the Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another as he loved us.

John 10:11-18

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

He knows his sheep and brings them to the Father.

I am the good shepherd.

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:11



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 (continued healing)
Jim Kinsel
Lynne 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 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 so many troubles.

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 share Christ's Good News in this time and place.

*Pray
without
ceasing*

continued...



Jehovah Lutheran Church 1566 Thomas Avenue Saint Paul MN 55104-1823 651-644-1421
A Community of Joy . . . Celebrating, Learning & Sharing the Love of God in Christ Jesus

Special Weekly Prayers:

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

As we pray for each congregation on our Circuit and their pastors by name, this week we pray for St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, St. Paul and Pastor Andrew Thompson.

*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://augzburg.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.

NOTE: No Bible Study on Sunday, May 2
Please attend the Voters' Meeting.



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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.



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 contact Katie Miller at 612-868-5524, or Marge Avoles at 651-398-8204 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)



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 JELC 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*

JEHOVAH LIBRARY UPDATE



Attention: Book Lovers! Would you like to help update our library?

You may not know that Jehovah Lutheran Church is home to a small library on the ground level. Besides a small number of theological reference books, there are a number of devotional booklets, biographies, including a few books written by current and former pastors, and members, including our own Pastor Joshua Miller. You will also find Bible Story books for children and families as well as story books for children and youth.

Unfortunately, care of the books has languished during the last year's pandemic and subsequent restrictions. Several donations have been made and need to be processed for circulation. With the lifting of several pandemic restrictions, it seems a good time to update the library.

If this interests you, call Trish in the church office or Lydia Volz. Library experience is helpful but is not necessary.

Initial goals: Feasibility of Church Library
Circulation guidelines
Inventory of present holdings



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For Such a Time as This
A conversation on Faith, Race, and the Grace of God

with Pastor James & Janis McDaniels
and Pastor Andrew Thompson

Saturday, May 1st
10:30-11:30 a.m.

St. Stephanus Lutheran Church
739 Lafond Ave., St. Paul

Young Esther becomes Queen of Persia when her racial and religious identity is not publicly known. As a plot to eradicate all Jews is about to be implemented, Esther's uncle pleads with her to go before the king "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, ...And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

Last summer we experienced great civil unrest after a multitude of wrongful deaths at the hands of those sworn to protect. Who else felt inadequate on how to respond, or how to become part of the conversation? Who is our neighbor? According to data from MNCompass.org the Frogtown/Thomas Dale neighborhood is approximately 70% people of color (29% Black or African American, 32% Asian, 9.8% Hispanic or Latino) and 30% white).

Join us for a conversation on faith, race and the grace of God with Pastor James and Janis McDaniels, and Pastor Andrew Thompson with the opportunity to ask questions. Rev. McDaniels has spent his career as a black pastor within the LCMS. In 2019 he was honored with the Christus in Mundo (Christ in the World) award. Janis McDaniels is the former VP of Gospel Outreach of the LWML. Concordia University St. Paul is awarding an Honorary Doctorate to Rev. McDaniels and the Aeterna Moliriaward to Janis McDaniels at graduation service on April 30.

Registration is required to attend in person, which is limited to 50 people. Due to COVID 19, attendees will wear masks and practice social distancing. To register go to <https://bookapew.com/app/mn/sslc/> and fill out the form for the May 1 event.

To watch the livestream go to https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=st+stephanus+worship+

Participants may pose questions during the event in the live feed. A recording of the event will be available afterward for viewing.

Love each other as
I have loved you. John 15:12



WELCOME BAGS

The family of Jehovah has been gifted a unique opportunity to partner with the preschoolers and 5th/6th religion class of King of Kings Lutheran School to assemble welcome bags for New Freedom Store. These bags will make their way to the hands of those recently released from prison.

Each bag needs:

Disposable razors
Shaving cream
Soap
Shampoo or combo bodywash/shampoo
Toothpaste
Toothbrush
Deodorant
2 pairs of socks
Maybe a generic size color t-shirt

Look for a box in the Narthex labeled Welcome Bags.

We will collect until May 16. The students will collect as well. We will tell you how many bags we packed.

Welcome

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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