



NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Loving Our Neighbor and Moving Forward Together

“I will therefore give myself as a Christ to my neighbor, just as Christ offered himself to me. I will do nothing in this life except what is profitable, necessary, and life-giving for my neighbor, since through faith I have an abundance of all good things in Christ.” (Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*, 82)

As Christians, we are called by our Lord to love and serve our neighbor as God in Christ has loved and served us. Through becoming a human in Jesus, God the Son gave up His glory and might to become like one of us. Jesus left His Father’s side, where He was worshipped day and night to be born to a poor Jewish family in a shepherd’s grotto. He gave up the comfort of heaven to walk the dusty roads of Palestine. He gave up His throne to be lifted up on the cross, where He took upon Himself our sin and death gave us His righteousness and eternal life.

Now our Lord calls us to give up our comfort for the sake of our neighbors. Governor Walz has declared the Minnesota mask order to be at an end, but the pandemic of COVID-19 is not over. In Minnesota, we still rank fourth in the U.S. for new COVID infections. While many people have been vaccinated, others have not yet been able to be vaccinated. This is especially true of our children under twelve.

For parents of children this age, including my wife and me, this is a cause for ongoing caution and concern. The lifting of the mask order raises questions in the minds of parents of children under 12 who want to protect their children from infection. To protect our youngest brothers and sisters in Christ and those who may not be able to be vaccinated on account of medical conditions, our Church Council has voted to approve changes to the congregation’s COVID safety plan, which includes a mask policy for Jehovah Lutheran Church, until all members of our congregation—including the youngest ones—can be fully vaccinated. As your pastor and a father, I wholeheartedly support this measure, and ask to serve our youngest brothers and sisters by continuing to wear your mask at Jehovah Lutheran.

As we continue to mask, we will also take other steps to move more fully back in-person for worship and other activities at Jehovah Lutheran. On Sunday May 30, we will end sign-ups and health screenings. Changes to communion distribution will be made on Sunday, June 6. Hymnals, worship books, and attendance cards will be returned to the pews beginning this Sunday.

continued . . .



On May 30, we will begin having Adult Bible Class in person and will soon begin Sunday school. At this time, it would also be appropriate for boards to hold meetings in-person if they so desire. As we move more fully in-person, we will be scaling back the recorded service. While things could change one way or the other, we plan to end the recorded service around the beginning of September.

In the midst of so many changes, I thank you for all of your prayers and support for your pastor and council during these difficult times. If you have any questions or concerns about our COVID policies, please speak to me or to Marge Avoles, who is our COVID-19 plan administrator.

It is a joy to serve you as your shepherd in Christ, and I pray God's peace and blessings to each of you.

Your Pastor,
Joshua Miller

OFFICE HOURS WITH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:

Tuesday 8:30AM-1:30PM

Wednesday 8:30AM-1:30PM

Thursday 8:30AM-1:30PM

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

(CALL OR EMAIL AHEAD, PASTOR MAY BE VISITING)

Monday 1:00-5:00PM

Tuesday (day off)

Wednesday 1:00-5:00PM

Thursday 1:00-5:00PM

**Friday (office closed, pastor visiting,
call to meet with pastor)**

Pastor's Cell: 612-600-3514



IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Donna Ostenson Kiefert
Bernice Demulling
Rita Galston
Paul Finegan
George Mendoza
Sandy Quenzer
Tom Kelly
Tim Robinson
Patrick Carey
Wesley Pagel
Shirley Starner, and her son-in-law Greg Beaudoin
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
Ken Frigstad
George Hild, Sr. (father of George Hild)
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 Fischer and Fishback families.

As we pray for each congregation on our Circuit and their pastors by name, this week we pray for Mekane Yesus Lutheran, St. Paul and Pastor Francis Stephanos.

*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*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Ezekiel 37:1-14

God promises the Israelites in exile, who are like dry bones,
that they will live again by the breath of his Spirit

Acts 2:1-21

On the day of Pentecost there came the sound of a violent wind,
tongues of fire rested on the heads of the apostles,
and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other languages.

All the people were perplexed
but Peter raised his voice telling them that this was a mark of the Messianic age
as told by the prophet Joel.

John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

The testimony of the Spirit to Jesus now becomes the testimony of Jesus' disciples.
The Spirit will both convict of sin and sustain belief in Jesus as the one who speaks the word of God.



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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

The Word of the Lord Grew:
Outreach in the Earliest Church
Jehovah Lutheran Church
Adult Bible Class



Join us on Zoom at
11:15AM this Sunday, May 23.

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

Meeting ID: 957 3694 0038

Passcode: 255875

In-person Adult Bible Class begins Sunday, May 30 at 11:00am in the lounge.
Contact Pastor Miller with questions.



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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

DONATIONS FOR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AT JEHOVAH



As we watch COVID-19 restrictions being lifted a little at a time as appropriate and safe for all, Jehovah's Pastor and leaders believe that along with others across the Nation, we will host a National Night Out (NNO) event in the church parking lot this year, even if it is somewhat different from what has been done in the past. NNO currently is scheduled to be held on **Tuesday, August 3, 2021**. One element of Jehovah's annual celebration that we hope to keep is the giveaway of clothing, jewelry, toys and household items – no appliances, please. We will plan to do this outdoors following all COVID-19 protocols in place in August. Please continue to bring your donations for the giveaway to church and we will place them in the Crib Room inside the Nursery along with the items donated in 2020 that we were not able to giveaway in 2020 due to the pandemic. If you wish to drop items off during the week, please contact Bill, Jehovah's Facilities Manager, at 612-990-7598 to arrange a time between 9:00am and Noon. so that he can let you into the building and help to get items to the Crib Room. If you wish to donate on Sunday morning between 9:00am and 11:00am, please contact Marge Avoles at 651-398-8204.



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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 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*

AN UPDATE FROM REZEK HOUSE



Things at Rezek are going well. The new youth are settling in and starting new routines, while the older youth are making plans for what comes next. Three youth are graduating out of the program this month! They go off into the world with the tools and resources they have gathered in their time at Rezek, so much of it made possible by your support. This month's wish list includes:

Hand soap	Deodorant
Dish soap	Lip balm
Laundry soap	Hair care for textured hair
Sanitizing wipes	African-American skin care products
Bleach	Bathroom cleaner
Floor cleaner	

Smaller sizes are the most useful.

*thank
you*



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BOY SCOUT FENCE PROJECT PLANNING CONTINUES

Logan Jarvi, a junior at Mounds View High School and a scout in troop 200 is continuing to work with Jehovah Lutheran Church to make a new fence on the edge of the church parking lot by the alley. He has been budgeting and planning for the project and suspects that the cost will be close to \$1850 to complete. To date about \$350 has been given toward this project. Logan is working on fund raisers for this project and appreciates the donations that have come in already. If you would like to donate, please make your check out to Jehovah Lutheran Church and mark "Eagle Scout Project" in the memo line. You can mail your donation to Jehovah, drop it off in the office, or bring it with you on Sunday. A final date has not been set yet for completion, but donations can be made prior to the project so that materials can be purchased. If you have any questions about this, talk to Sandy Kolar who is working with Logan with this Scouting project.



Join the National Lutheran Choir for
LIGHT DAWNS,
an online celebration and benefit
with guests joining live from across the country

May 23, 2021
4:00 p.m.

To attend Light Dawns on May 23, visit NLCA.com.



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