



## NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

### Gathered to be Sent: The Breaking of the Bread

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers... And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:42, 47b (ESV)*



As we continue to study the gathering and outreach of the first Church in the book of Acts, this week we look at “the breaking of the bread.” Luke uses this phrase both in his Gospel and in the book of Acts to describe the Sacrament of Holy Communion, but we can also think of this broadly in terms of the entire Divine Service. The earliest Christians devoted themselves to gathering together to hear God’s Word and celebrate the sacred meal of our Lord’s body and blood, and the Church has continued gather together for worshipping in the Divine Service ever since.

For over a year, we have experienced an interruption in gathering for Divine Service. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has raged across the globe and taken over 3.5 million lives, our congregational worship life was interrupted, changed, and then creatively continued. Since last March, Jehovah Lutheran has offered the Service of the Word online, and at different points we have offered several methods for the in-person Service of the Sacrament (Holy Communion). We have now been gathering together for the full Divine Service in person (minus congregational singing) since the first Sunday in Lent of 2021. We have also continued to offer the recorded Service of the Word.

Recently our Board of Lay Ministry and Church Council discussed moving forward with the further re-opening of in-person Divine Service at Jehovah Lutheran. After deliberating, these boards, Erica, and I, unanimously and wholeheartedly have decided to end the recorded service and restore congregational singing to our in-person gatherings. We made this decision on the basis of the current metrics of the COVID-19 pandemic in Minnesota and the extremely high rate of vaccination. At this point, nearly 100%! of eligible members (age 12 and older) have been fully vaccinated. At the same time, viewership online of the recorded service is extremely low. Our church staff and volunteers have put in countless hours and nearly limitless energy into the filming, production, and uploading of these services. At this time, however, few are watching them.

*Continued . . .*



Beginning on Sunday, July 4, we will discontinue the recorded service in its current form. We will offer the Divine Service in-person at 9:30AM. We will record portions of this service for distribution to our members who are unable to come to services in-person. I will continue to bring Holy Communion to those unable to come.

We will begin reintroducing congregational singing on July 4. At first, we will sing the final hymn together at the conclusion of the service. If anyone is not comfortable with singing at this time, they may exit before we begin this hymn. In August, we plan to also begin singing the communion liturgy together. We will then add other singing parts back into the service from there. We are also very excited that we will have a fully vaccinated ensemble sing for us, in-person on Cantata Sunday! Ben Wegner is preparing a wonderful baroque treat for the ears to enhance our worship that day!

Many of you may be wondering if we will hold our services without masks. The CDC recommends that we continue to wear our masks if we are singing together as a congregation, since singing spreads the virus more than ordinary talking. We should also bear in mind that not every member of Jehovah has yet had the opportunity to be vaccinated. **Those under 12 years of age still have not been approved to receive vaccination against COVID-19.** We anticipate that they will begin to be vaccinated around September. Our children have endured many hardships for the sake of the most vulnerable during this pandemic, and in Christian love, we will now bear with them, until they too can be vaccinated. We will continue to wear our masks in services so that we can move forward with congregational singing and for the sake of our unvaccinated children.

While we will keep masks on for worship, the council has approved that we may hold meetings and other small groups (Bible study, volunteering, etc.) without masks. For this to take place, everyone in the group needs to be fully vaccinated, and all should agree that they are comfortable removing masks. Anyone who wishes to keep their mask on may always do so. If unvaccinated children (under 12) are present, we must all continue to wear our masks.

I know that this has been a very long road for all of us, and I thank you for your patience and longsuffering. The pandemic has not been able to dampen your faithfulness to the Lord or your love for His people. Erica and I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to those who have worked very hard to continue our common life of worship during this time of pandemic. In particular we give thanks to:

**Mark and Rhoda Schuler,  
Elizabeth, Bruce, Ben, and Abby Wegner;  
David and Susanna Mennicke,  
Tim and Max Buendorf,  
Spirit Freed,  
Guest musicians and choirs,  
All of our wonderful lectors and other assistants.**

*Continued . . .*



Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. So much creative work was accomplished without prior warning. So many schedules were altered. So many wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ worked together for the common good. Your labor for our Lord and His people has not been in vain.

As we go forward together, we continue to devote ourselves, as did the first Christians, to gathering for worship, to hear God's Word, and to share together the bread of life and cup of salvation in our Lord's Supper. May our Lord bless you as you receive His gifts.

In Christ,  
Your Pastor, Joshua Miller  
Your Congregational President, Erica Dalager Reed



**Divine Service – 9:30AM each Sunday**  
Live service in the sanctuary  
**Final pre-recorded service online June 27**

### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP THIS WEEK**

Lamentations 3:22-33

The sage accepts that the Lord allows him to suffer affliction, but he also has hope in the Lord's unfailing fidelity and mercy which are "new every morning".

"The Lord is good to those who wait for him."

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Paul encourages the Corinthians to honor their commitment to the collection for the Christians in Jerusalem.

He presents Jesus as example of self-giving.

Mark 5:21-43

With power and compassion

Jesus responds to the faith of a Jewish leader whose daughter is deathly ill and a timorous woman suffering from hemorrhages. .



**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

**The Word of the Lord Grew:**  
Outreach in the Earliest Church

Jehovah Lutheran Church  
Adult Bible Class



**11:00AM on Sundays.**

**Join us in person in the lounge.**

Contact Pastor Miller with questions  
at 612-600-3514 or [pastorjoshuamiller@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjoshuamiller@gmail.com).



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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  
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)  
Scott McMurray  
Jenna Schmidt (daughter of Perry Schmidt)  
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 strength to speak out for and protect the lives of the unborn our God has created.

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

For Governor Walz and all in leadership in our state.

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 move forward together in outreach.

For thanksgiving to God for our new members Winslow and Diane Grandstrand and Daniel and Kristin Miller

continued . . .

*Pray  
without  
ceasing*



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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 Lisa Haupt and Florence Heinicke.

\*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*

### **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**



## 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



The Library Committee met this week and brainstormed ideas and suggestions for Jehovah's Library. We will meet again on Wednesday, June 30, at 1 pm. to inventory where and what is in our present collection. You are welcome to join us as your interest and time allows. If you have questions, please call Lydia or Trish,



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## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



**5:00 to 7:00pm on Tuesday, August 3, 2021**  
**Jehovah Lutheran Church Parking Lot**

The Administration Resources Board (ARB) is looking for volunteers to help with Jehovah's annual National Night Out (NNO) outreach event that will be held from 5pm to 7pm on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, on the church property. Here are your opportunities to help Jehovah reach out and serve our community:

- Help set up for the event in the church parking lot;
- Help by donating gently used clothing for all ages, small household items, linens, etc.
- Help sort and set out the clothing and small household items that have been donated for the giveaway;
- Help by donating purchased and packaged food items to be given away as prizes during the raffles throughout the event;
- Help for the loyal Kolar, Wynn and Fishback families and others who take on the food service;
- Help as popcorn makers;
- Help planning a few things for kids to enjoy;
- Help staffing food service, raffle, giveaway and kids area during the event;
- Help with take down and clean up after the event ends at 7:00pm.
- Spirit Freed is planning to provide music during the event. We could accommodate another group as we have done in the past. Contact us if you know of a group that might be interested in playing that evening.

To volunteer or if you have a new idea to add to the fun, please contact Marge Avoles at 651-398-8204 or at [margeavoles@comcast.net](mailto:margeavoles@comcast.net), or talk with any of the other ARB members: Katy Fishback, Mark Kolar, Karl Miesen, Bruce Wegner, and Dan Wynn.

Peace I leave with you,



my peace I give to you.

John 14:27



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