



NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Why should we celebrate Mary?

This Sunday, we are celebrating the Feast of St. Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus. But why do we do this? Why should we celebrate a whole day in the Church year to commemorate Mary? For that matter, we do we celebrate any saints at all?

Our Lutheran confessions can help us answer those questions. Two of our confessional documents, the *Augsburg Confession* and its *Apology* specifically address how we as Christians should regard the saints in general and Mary in particular.

Concerning the saints, the *Augsburg Confession* states:

“Our (Lutheran) churches teach that the history of the saints may be set before us so that we may follow the example of their faith and good works, according to our calling...”

“But the Scriptures do not teach that we are to call on the saints or ask the saints for help. Scripture sets before us the one Christ as Mediator, Atoning Sacrifice, High Priest, and Intercessor. He is to be prayed to. He has promised that He will hear our prayer.”

Mary is one of the saints, one of those Christians who has gone before us in the faith and has left us an example of trust in God and a faithful life. We should not pray to the saints, because Christ alone is given to us as God in the flesh. Christ alone stands between us and the Father’s throne. Christ alone has promised to hear us and to save us. Praying to a saint is giving a human what belongs to God, and there is only one human who is also God: Jesus Christ.

We don’t celebrate Mary in order to pray to her, nor do we worship her. That would put Mary in the place that Jesus Christ alone should occupy in our hearts. That would make Mary the object of our faith. The *Apology to the Augsburg Confession* states that this has indeed happened. “People have invoked her (Mary), have trusted in her mercy, and through her have wished to appease Christ, as though He were not our Atoning Sacrifice.”

The *Apology* goes on to say that we Christians must not trust in Mary or in any of the saints. We should trust in Christ alone. He is the only human who is also true God. He alone has died and been raised to life again for us.

And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior”

Luke 1: 46-47



But, says the *Apology*, Mary wouldn't even want us to trust in or pray to her. Mary would not want to be the object of our worship. That doesn't mean we shouldn't honor Mary though. We can and should honor Mary, for she is the only woman who has given birth to God in the flesh. Jesus is and always has been true God. Jesus was brought into the world through Mary. God was brought into the world through Mary. Thus Mary "is worthy of the most plentiful honors," even as "she does not want to be made equal to Christ."

Mary is not divine. She is only human. Yet through her, God worked His wondrous mystery of becoming human in Jesus. We can honor Mary by following her example.

In this Sunday's Gospel reading from Luke 1:46-55, we will hear the *Magnificat*, the song of Mary. Here Mary gives us a wonderful example of faith that we can honor and follow. In preparation for Divine Service this week and as we engage in outreach, I encourage you to read the timeless words voiced by Mary in the *Magnificat*, words that proclaim God's salvation.

In Christ,
Your Pastor, Joshua Miller

¹*Augsburg Confession XXI:1-3*, in *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, Second Edition, ed. Paul T. McCain, et al (St. Louis, MO: CPH, 2006), 44.

Apology to the Augsburg Confession, IX:28; in *Concordia*, 205.

³*Ibid.*

⁴*Ibid.*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Isaiah 61:1-7

The prophet declares the coming of the Spirit that was promised to the Messianic King who brings good news to all of God's people.

Galatians 4:4-7

God sent his son, born of a woman,
that we might receive his Spirit and live fully as his sons.

Luke 1:46-55

Mary's song (*Magnificat*) glorifies God,
for what he has done for his servant he will now do for those who fear God
in the new era of salvation begun in his son.



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

Divine Service – 9:30AM each Sunday
In Person service in the sanctuary

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.



Sunday School meets in the nursery after the Service.

Parents are welcome to stay with their children.



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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 Watson (recovering from surgery for blood clots)
John "Jack" Hedenstrom (brother of Sue and brother-in-law of Al Puder)
Jeannie Edwards (cousin of Pastor Miller)
Joyce and Susan Boettcher (stepmother and cousin of Elizabeth Wegner)
George Hild, Sr. (father of George Hild)
Scott McMurray
Jenna Schmidt (daughter of Perry Schmidt)
Nicole Pierce (friend of the Millers from Emmaus Lutheran)
Sue Schutte (mother of Principal Jay Schutte from King of Kings Lutheran)
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.

Steve and Janna Tarver, Jerry and Jane Chesson hospitalized with COVID-19 (parents and grandparents of Pastor Miller's sister-in-law).

For strength to speak out for and protect the lives of the unborn our God has created and compassionate care of all that He has made.

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, our District President Lucas Woodford as they lead us, and our Circuit Visitor, Steven Bielenberg.

continued . . .

*Pray
without
ceasing*



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For our congregation, its Pastor, and its lay leaders as we move forward together in outreach.

For the Mekane Yesus congregation as they call a new pastor.

Special Weekly Prayers:

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

*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*



CHECK OUT THE LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK!

Are you curious to see what the new hymnal will look like? There is a review copy on the volunteer desk in the office. Come take a look!

FAREWELL TO LYDIA VOLZ

Please join us for a cake reception in the parking lot on Sunday, August 22nd, after the church service in honor of Lydia. Our dear friend will be moving to Alabama later this month to be closer to family.



JEHOVAH'S WEEKLY FRIENDLY FRIDAY CALL-IN CHAT

Join us on Fridays at 11:10am.

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.

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



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REZEK HOUSE

Rezek House is moving toward a full house again and are reaching out with some specific basic needs. They are looking for 5' x 7' area rugs to place under the beds to help prevent scratches on the beautiful new floors. They also have a dire need for size 1 and size 4 diapers.

Drop off your donations at 501 N. Asbury Street, St Paul MN 55104. Please call Sean at 504-228-9149 to coordinate your drop off.

Thank
you



You can make a difference in a student's life.
Keystone Community Services is accepting donations for our annual school supply drive.
Your donation will help St. Paul youth succeed in school this year!

Collecting August 11-19 from 9am—5pm

Drop Off: **Merriam Park Community Center**
2000 St. Anthony Ave. St. Paul MN 55104

or

West 7th Community Center
265 Oneida Street, St. Paul MN 55102

The following items are being collected:

Pocket folders
Notebooks
Pencil Boxes/Bags
Crayons

Erasers
Pencil Sharpeners
12" Ruler
Colored Markers

Backpacks
Calculators
Scissors
Glue



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Jehovah Lutheran Church
Classic Collector Show

Cars Trucks Motorcycles

Saturday, August 21

6pm-8pm

in the Jehovah parking lot



**Bring your non-alcoholic beverage
and your camp chair**

Come just to browse and enjoy the fellowship!

**If you bring a classic vehicle,
please enter the church parking lot via Asbury Street just off Thomas Avenue to the south.
Others please park on the street.**

See you there!



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