



NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

God's Promise in Christ: Defense against Despair and the Devil

This week, the news from everywhere is bad. The government of Afghanistan has collapsed, and a chaotic situation has ensued. Many experts in foreign affairs fear that the deaths of innocent civilians may result from this turn of events. Our nation and our neighbor to the north are both suffering horrific draught and wildfires. The livelihoods of those who make their living off the land in these areas are very much endangered. Contrary to what we had all hoped, the COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet. The Delta variant of the virus is claiming lives around our nation. On a more personal level, many of us are struggling with loss, the pain of fractured relationships, and the general brokenness of creation and human life that sin has brought into our world.

In the midst of these circumstances, we are tempted to give up. We are tempted to throw in the towel. We are tempted to fall into despair. This is the doing of the devil. Knowing that he cannot take away our salvation that Jesus has won for us, Satan tries instead to take away our joy. Satan tries to get us to look at our bad circumstances so much that we lose sight of our Savior and the peace that Jesus has brought to our hearts. The devil can't rob us of our relationship with God in Christ, so he tries to make us give up hope that things will work out. That's how the devil attacks Christians, with despair.

In our Epistle reading this coming Sunday, Ephesians 6:10-20, we hear how to defend ourselves against such attacks of the devil and the despair he brings. We fight back putting on the full armor of God: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the readiness of the Gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. When we hear about all of these pieces of armor, we are hearing about God's promises for us in Christ.

God's promise of truth is that no matter what we hear about ourselves from anyone else or even what we may think about ourselves, God loves us so much that in Christ, He became one of us and died and rose again for us. That's the truth.

God's promise of righteousness is that no matter what else may be broken in our world or in our lives, we are in a right relationship with God because of what Jesus has done for us. We are righteous because in Jesus, God gives us His very own righteousness.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Ephesians 6: 10-11



God's promise of peace is that no matter what conflict may be going on in our lives, no matter what violence rages in our world, and no matter what disasters may threaten us, we are given peace through our relationship with God in Christ. Jesus has told us that in this world we would have trouble, but Jesus also has promised us that He has overcome the world. Jesus has promised us a peace that the world cannot give, a peace that passes all understanding.

God's promise of salvation is not only that in Jesus, God has saved us from sin, death, and the devil; but also that Jesus will return for us. Jesus' promise of salvation is that Jesus will return to our broken world and renew it, purging it of all sin, suffering, and evil, transforming it into His new creation.

God's promise of His Word to us is that God has not left us alone to struggle to figure out how to come to God on our own. The promise of God's Word is that God speaks to us in His Word, speaking plainly to us and promising His Gospel to us. God doesn't leave us to guess but promises to be present for us in His Word.

These promises are our God-given defenses against the devil and his assaults. These promises are our weapons for protecting ourselves against the devil's fiery darts of despair and hopelessness. We have hope. We have confidence. We have a future, because God has promised them all to us.

Brothers and sisters, stand fast against the devil! Stand fast against despair! Arm yourselves, defend yourselves against the devil and despair, for our Lord God loves you, cares for you, and gives Himself to you in Jesus Christ. That's the real news, the Good News about the God who gives Himself to you.

Your Pastor,
Joshua Miller

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Joshua reminds the people of Israel of God's covenant with them
and the demand that they forsake all other gods.

They respond by promising to serve God alone.

Ephesians 6:10-20

Paul calls on Christians to be equipped for warfare against evil,
taking "the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God."

John 6:56-69

Jesus' claim to give his flesh as the bread of life was too hard a teaching
so that some disciples turned back.

But Peter confesses, "You have the words of eternal life." "You are the Holy One of God."



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.

**NO BIBLE STUDY THIS SUNDAY.
JOIN US IN THE PARKING LOT AFTER THE SERVICE
TO HONOR LYDIA VOLZ!**



Family Sunday School will meet briefly this week in the nursery after the Service.
Parents are welcome to stay with their children.



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

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 Tarver, hospitalized with COVID-19 (father 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 the people of Afghanistan and for innocent lives caught in the midst of the tumultuous events taking place there.

For rain for our parched ground and for an end to the wildfires raging in the U.S. and Canada.

*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

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.

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 Long family.

*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 this 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.



*Now may the Lord of peace himself
give you peace at all times
and in every way.*
2 Thessalonians 3:16a



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

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*

Jehovah Lutheran Church

Classic Collector Show

Cars Trucks Motorcycles

This 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!



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

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



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