



NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Walking Together: Don't forget the Opening Hymn!

One of my favorite professors in college was my New Testament and Greek instructor, George Gianoulis. Dr. G., as we fondly called him often gave us young theologians a piece of advice he picked up from his professor, Edgar Krentz: "Take your work seriously, but don't take yourself too seriously." To this wisdom from Dr. Krentz, Dr. G. added, "If you do take yourself too seriously, the Lord has little humorous ways of helping you out of that habit."

Perhaps that happened this past Sunday. When I got home, it wasn't too long before my wife informed me that I blew right past the opening hymn. How do you envision a pastoral facepalm?

It is true that we pastors sometimes take ourselves too seriously. Little mistakes we make can help remind us that we are not stars in our own dramas on Sunday mornings. We are but the instruments that our Lord uses to speak Law and Gospel. We shouldn't get too brash about it either, since God also had no trouble speaking His truth through the mouth of a donkey (see Numbers 22:21-39). But back to the opening hymn...

The opening hymn is not just an add-on the liturgy that we use or discard at will. The opening hymn is the place where we Christians join our voices together in welcoming the Triune God as He comes among us. In this way, the opening hymn is a morning greeting to our King as He comes among us.

After the past two years of COVID, we all know how wonderful this part of the Divine Service really is. The truth is that after a stressful week, it feels really good and really right to join our voices with brothers and sisters in praise of our God. Even beyond that, though, the opening hymn helps to settle our hearts and quiet our minds by turning our attention away from ourselves and to our Triune God, who comes in the Divine Service to speak to us and to give us His very self.

I pray that our Lord will draw us all to worship and hear from Him.

Your Pastor,
Joshua Miller



*I will be glad and rejoice in you;
I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.*

Psalm 9:2



Walking Together: “All This God Has Done”

Stewardship 2021

The Third Article of the Creed: Sanctification and the Church

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

In addition to the gifts given He bestows on us in creation and salvation, our Triune God gives us further blessings in the Holy Christian Church. In the Church, our Lord gives us His Holy Spirit. The Spirit is given to us through the Word and Sacraments, as He comes to us and opens our hearts to believe in the Good News of Jesus Christ.

God doesn't just throw the Gospel out there and leave it up to us to accept it. God gives us the faith we need to believe in the Gospel. For without the gift of faith, without the Holy Spirit coming to us through the Word and Sacrament, we would never be able to respond to what God has done for us. For apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, we are blind, deaf, and dead to God. While it is popular in American Christianity to say that people must “make a decision to accept Christ,” the truth of the Scriptures is that people are not free to do so but bound in sin (Ephesians 2:1, ff.; Colossians 2:13).

Sinners are dead in sin. That's the bad news. The Good News is that the Holy Spirit makes the dead alive! The Holy Spirit does this through the Church's preaching of the Good News in Word and Sacrament. Each time a child is baptized in the name of the Triune God, each time the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed, each time the body and blood of Christ is given under bread and wine, each time a Christian shares the Good News, the Holy Spirit makes the dead alive, gives faith, and saves!

1. *Luther's Small Catechism: With Explanation* (St. Louis: CPH, 2017), 17-18. <https://catechism.cph.org/en/creed.html>, accessed Nov. 15, 2021. Used with permission.

Continued . . .



Through the proclamation of the Church's people, the Holy Spirit gives eternal life. But that's not all. Not only does the Holy Spirit give life and faith through the Church, He also gives fellowship. As believers, we do not simply have a "personal relationship" with the Triune God; we have a communal relationship too. Our relationship with the Triune God is one we share together with all of our brothers and sisters—all believers of all time.

Right here and now what that means is that God the Holy Spirit gives us the blessings of being in a congregation, a gathering of believers who worship together, receive God's saving gifts together, and live Christian lives of love and service together. To put it simply, this means that the Holy Spirit has given you your brothers and sisters at Jehovah Lutheran Church.

Like with His gifts to you in creation and salvation, our God calls you to be good stewards of His gifts to you in the Church. Yes, this means that our Lord calls you to support faithfully His work in this congregation through financial giving. It also means that He calls you to participate in that work through serving others with your time and abilities at Jehovah. Maybe that means helping in Sunday school, reading the words of Scripture in worship, serving as an usher, or helping to prepare treats for special occasions. All of us are called to serve, and we serve in a variety of ways.

Stewardship of God's gifts to us in the Church mean something else too though. It means that we are called to be good stewards of the relationships God gives us in the Church. It means that we are called to love each other at Jehovah Lutheran. Every congregation has its hurts, wounds, and brokenness. Ours is no exception. Although we are righteous in God's sight through Jesus' death and resurrection for us, we do still sin. Sometimes we still sin against each other. Sometimes we still say harsh words to each other. Sometimes we gossip about one another. Stewardship means admitting that we have hurt others and asking their forgiveness for it. Stewardship also means forgiving others who have hurt us.

Stewardship does mean caring for our resources in creation and our resources that we use here at church. Yet, in an even deeper sense, stewardship means caring for each other, for God Himself has given us to each other here in the Church on earth and for eternity, and He calls us to take care of one another. Amen.

Your Pastor,
Joshua Miller



Be sure to return your promise card this Sunday.



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A Community of Joy . . . Celebrating, Learning & Sharing the Love of God in Christ Jesus

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

2-3pm Wednesdays
in Drews Memorial Chapel.

In the event the chapel is occupied for other purposes, please proceed to the sanctuary.

REPARING FOR WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

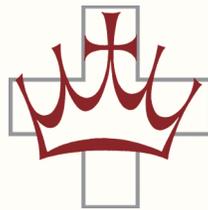
In a vision Daniel sees "one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven" and approaching the throne of the Ancient One; this one is given everlasting dominion over all people and nations.

Revelation 1:4b-6

John sees God "who is and who was and who is to come," together with Jesus Christ first-born of the dead and coming with the clouds to be given glory and dominion forever with the Lord God, the almighty.

John 18:33-37

Jesus testifies before Pilate to the truth that he was sent as a king but his kingdom is "not from this world."



LIVING BY FAITH UPDATE

Number 4!

Join us for Living by Faith on Sunday mornings at 11:00 in the lounge!
For the next four weeks, we will be looking at the fourth commandment. Why four weeks on the fourth commandment?

In the fourth commandment, God instructs us to honor those in authority. In the Large Catechism, Luther teaches us that God has put us under authority in three estates of creation: the family, the church, and civil government. We will look at the fourth commandment generally for the first week. Then, we will spend a different week on each of these estates.

Come join us!



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JEHOVAH SERVICE AND EDUCATION SCHEDULE



9:30 AM Divine Service **Sundays in the Sanctuary**

Invite a friend and join us
for a year of connecting and Walking Together

Living by Faith

11:00AM on Sundays.

Ages 14 - 100+

Join us in person in the lounge.

Contact Pastor Miller with questions
at 612-600-3514 or pastorjoshuamiller@gmail.com.



Growing in Faith

Ages Birth - 13 years

Gather with us weekly in the nursery after the Divine 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
Marge Maule
Mark Kolar
Marlys Wolf (fell and broke her hip)
Shirley Dorow (hospice)
Jeannie Edwards (cousin of Pastor Miller)
Joyce and Susan Boettcher (stepmother and cousin of Elizabeth Wegner)
Frank Loffler (friend of Gary Reed)
Martha Koepke (aunt of Ali Hequet)
Ramone and his family
Pastor Juls and wife Nel Clausen (pastor Clausen was the interim principal at King of Kings and is a long-time servant of the LCMS)
The Schutte family upon the death of Sue Schutte (Jay Schutte is the principal from King of Kings Lutheran School)

Those suffering or recovering from COVID-19, including Piper Avoles, and for wise use of the vaccines.

Safety and good health for all students, teachers and staff at schools, including those from this congregation.

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 compassionate support of all mothers of young children who are in need.

For the refugees who have fled for refuge from Afghanistan to North America.

For better stewardship of God's creation and strengthening of those whose professional vocation is to care for the earth.

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



*Let my prayer
rise before you as incense.
Psalm 141:2a*

continued . . .



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For Governor Walz and all in leadership in our state.

Mayor Carter and all in city government.

For our Synodical President Matthew Harrison, our District President Lucas Woodford as they lead us, and for our Circuit Visitor, Steven Bielenberg.

For our congregation, as we follow our outreach roadmap, *Walking Together*.

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 Palmer 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.



A SPECIAL VETERANS DAY

Jehovah's own Martha Ryan met with Dr. Saylor, professor at Concordia, when he was writing his book Remembering the Good War: Minnesota's Greatest Generation. Martha served as a nurse in World War II, and Dr. Saylor mentions her in his book. She gave him the items on the table in the picture below, hers from Europe and her husband's from the Pacific. Martha and Dr. Saylor had a wonderful visit and she enjoyed looking at her photos from the places she had lived after the war. She closed the day watching the flag being taken down in the parking lot, a fitting end to a special day.



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.

NO CALL ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,
as indeed you are doing.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11



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DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!
Date Change Date Change Date Change

The date has changed from the December 4th date that was included in the November *Jottings* for Jehovah members to participate in decorating the church building for Christmas. Volunteers should come to the Narthex **following the Worship Service on Sunday, November 28**, to check-in and to choose where they want to help decorate. There will be no *Living by Faith* Bible Class after worship on that Sunday and the children and parents from *Growing in Faith* Sunday School will be invited to help decorate. Decorating includes setting up and trimming the tree and placing candles along the aisle and along the walls of the Sanctuary, placing the creches, setting up the display and hanging lights in the glassed-in entrance on Snelling Avenue, and hanging wreaths in the Narthex and outside of the Thomas Avenue entrance doors. This is always a joyous occasion that usually takes about two hours or so. Everyone must wear masks while in the building. Contact Marge Avoles at 651-398-8204 or margeavoles@comcast.net with any questions.



In compliance with the recommendations of the U.S. Center for Disease Control and the Minnesota Department of Health, face masks must be worn inside the facilities of Jehovah Lutheran Church anytime you are with another person who is not in your immediate household. This includes worship services, all board meetings, Bible studies, working, and volunteering. A facemask must completely cover the mouth and nose. If you do not have a facemask, we are happy to give you one.

Please help us continue to keep our facilities open, our worship services in-person, and our neighbors safe.



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NEW FREEDOM STORE PACKING PARTY!

**Tuesday, November 30
10:00am in the Fellowship Hall**

The New Freedom Store will host the next packing party on Tuesday, November 30th at 10am downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. We will be packing 100 winter kits for the homeless. These include socks, gloves, hats, mittens, and scarves, all inside a drawstring bag. Please feel free to come. And if you have an extra pair of socks for the poor, or if you wish to buy some, you can drop them off next week in the narthex. Contact Jim Seemann at seemann@csp.edu if you have questions.



YOUTH HOLIDAY GIFTS

Jehovah is sponsoring LSS Metro Homeless Youth for the Christmas Season this year. The List is posted on the Ministry Board. Please look it over, pick a gift or two, and bring it unwrapped to the church office by Wednesday, December 8th. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Janet Fishback @651-636-7046(home) or 612-388-5286(cell).

Below are just a few items that are needed.

Please refer to the General Needs List handout for more suggestions.

Gift Cards

Marshalls (\$25 to \$50 cards)

Target, Cub, Rainbow, Walmart (\$10 to \$50 cards)

Subway, McDonald's, Burger King, Taco Bell, Culver's, Chipotle, Caribou Coffee, Starbucks (\$5 and \$10 cards)

Visa Gift Cards (youth can pay cell phone/electric bills, etc., or get exactly what they need)

Bus Passes - Stored Value and 31-day passes

Men's and Women's winter jackets - sizes S - XL. [See the handout for more clothing items.](#)

Newborn and baby basics - diapers, wipes, BPA free bottles and pacifiers, baby wash and lotion, and crib sheets

Baby dolls and Barbie dolls for kids ages 6 months – 4 years. Especially brown skin dolls.



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Join Team Keystone on a Walk to End Hunger!

**Team Keystone Walk
Mall of America, Macy's Court
Friday, November 19th
Stop by anytime from 11am - 1pm**

The Walk to End Hunger is back for its 14th annual event, this year celebrating the entire month of "No Hunger November!" Instead of a Thanksgiving Day event like you've seen in the past, a Walk to End Hunger walk route will be featured at the Mall of America for the entire month of November this year - inviting participants to "walk to end hunger" any time the Mall of America is open this month by visiting Macy's Court. Please note, the Mall of America is NOT open on Thanksgiving Day, November 25.

Register for Team Keystone at this link:

<https://event.walktoendhunger.org/event/walktoendhunger/classification/264330/>

For more information, visit www.keystoneservices.org or call (651) 645-0349

MORE FROM KEYSTONE

The pandemic has caused many challenges for everyone in our community, and for many people those challenges are increasing. The number of people visiting our food shelves and receiving food from our other food distribution services has increased by 20% over the past two months. **Higher prices at the grocery store and gas station are hitting low-income people and families who are still struggling to manage through the economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic.**

With the holidays approaching and the realities of the pandemic still lingering, this is a difficult time and sometimes we need some extra help. In those moments, Keystone is here.

Your support of Keystone is making it possible for Keystone to expand programs so they can say "yes, we can help" to everyone who turns to them.

*thank
you*



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