



NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Walking Together: Prayer in the Divine Service

Prayer is an essential part of the Christian life. According to Martin Luther, prayer is one of the three factors that form us disciples of Jesus Christ. Prayer is part of our relationship with Jesus Christ. It is how we talk to Him and bring our thanks, troubles, and desires to Him. Prayer also plays an essential role in the Divine Service.

In the Divine Service, our God in Christ comes to meet with us, to bring us His Word, to give us His gifts. We respond to these actions of God in the Divine Service through prayer. Our God first comes and speaks to us, and we then we talk to Him. There are lots of places where we pray in the Divine Service, including the Introit, the Kyrie, and of course the Prayer of the Church and Lord's Prayer.

Another important place where we pray in the Divine Service is just before we hear the readings from God's Word to us in Holy Scripture. Each week we hear readings from the Old Testament, the Epistles of the New Testament, a Psalm, and one of the Gospels. The prayer just before the readings focuses our hearts on a theme drawn from the readings of the particular day of the liturgical year. This prayer focuses our words to God along the lines of this theme.

This prayer before the readings can go by different names. In the *Lutheran Book of Worship*, we knew it as the "Prayer of the Day." In the *Lutheran Service Book*, we will come to know it as the "Collect of the Day." Whichever we call this prayer, the function is the same. It gathers us before the throne of God as we prepare His Word to us. My prayer is that we join our hearts together as we come before our Lord in the Divine Service to hear His Law and His Gospel to us.

In Christ,
Your Pastor, Joshua Miller

*Devote yourselves to prayer,
being watchful and thankful.*
Colossians 4:2



WALKING TOGETHER: CONCLUDING FAITH BITES

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Church Council, office staff, and I have determined that the time has come for us to conclude *Faith Bites* at Jehovah Lutheran. This issue of *Faith Bites* will be the last. We have not made this decision lightly or without gratitude for this method of communication in our parish.

When *Faith Bites* first appeared in our congregation, it did so during a time of lock-down, when other methods of communication were severed and when we could not gather together in person for worship. At that time, *Faith Bites* was meant to be a touchpoint for our people who were unable to come together around our Lord's Word and Sacrament. That time has now passed, and we rejoice that we are gathered in number as God's people around His gifts each Sunday.

The main purposes of *Faith Bites* was to provide our scattered and sheltering-in-place congregation with weekly announcements of news and happenings within our parish. Since that time, *Faith Bites* has evolved into a full-blown newsletter that takes many hours each week to prepare. As your pastor, I know that this is not the best use of Jehovah's time and resources. It has pushed other tasks to the margins that are actually more essential to our life together.

The announcements relayed in *Faith Bites* will continue to reach you through the monthly publication of *Jottings*, through our Sunday bulletins, and through electronic means. One thing in *Faith Bites* that many have welcomed is the weekly posting of the prayer requests of our parish. We will continue to bring this important information to you through a weekly email with the prayer requests. Should other items come up that must be communicated within a particular week, they will appear in the announcements in the Sunday bulletin. My articles on walking through the Divine Service will continue through the monthly issues of *Jottings*.

As we move forward on our roadmap for our life together and outreach, named *Walking Together*, it is important that I make good stewardship of our time and your resources by increased phone and in-person visitation with members whom we have not seen for some time and with our home-bound members. Ending the publication of *Faith Bites* frees up needed time for this important work. The information will continue to be communicated to you, just not through *Faith Bites*. Thank you for understanding this needed shift in our communication.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Joshua Miller



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WALKING TOGETHER: "ALL THIS GOD HAS DONE"

Stewardship, 2021

The Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Right now, you've probably heard about the shortage of goods hitting our society. Due to the shutdowns in global commerce that took place during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an interruption in the to-this-point constant flow of goods to our shores and to our homes. At this point, maybe, like me, you have ordered things off of Amazon, and it takes longer to get them than usual. Or, maybe, your orders have been cancelled. Maybe you have gone to the store prepared to make turkey for Thanksgiving and find that you're planning a menu with pork roast instead. Yet, despite the inconvenience of things like this, we all know that we really have nothing to complain about this Thanksgiving. We know that we far better off than most people in the world. We really have no shortage of daily bread.

I had many favorite courses at seminary, but there was one that stood out amongst all others. It was *Lutheran Confessional Writings* taught by James Nestingen and Steven Paulson. In this course we students got a double-shot of instructions from these great teachers of the faith. In addition to the weekly lectures in large group format, we also got to meet once a week in much smaller sections with the professors and talk informally with them about the Lutheran confessional writings and how they form us as ministers of Word and Sacrament. During one of these more personal sessions, I remember a fellow student asking about this petition of the Lord's Prayer. She asked, "But, Dr. Nestingen, how can we say that God gives daily bread to all people when there are people who are poor, homeless, and starving? They don't have daily bread."

Continued . . .



Dr. Nestingen looked at the floor for a moment and then raised his head and said, “That’s not God’s fault. It’s ours.”

The silence was so thick in the room, you could have cut it with a knife. We all knew exactly what the good doctor meant. God created this earth with enough resources for all of God’s creatures, but we sinners have taken more than our fair share. The inequities of our society and poverty in our world are not the fault of God’s acts in creation; they are the results of human sinfulness. As Archbishop Fulton Sheen was fond of saying, God created us to love people and use things. In our sinfulness, we love things and use people... mainly to get more things.

Part of good stewardship is learning to be content with daily bread. Daily bread is what we need to live. It’s not everything in the world available to us in orderable and shippable form. It’s what we need for this life.

This Thanksgiving, we know that we have much daily bread for which to thank our Lord. We have a place to lay our heads at night. We have food on our table and in our stomachs. We have family, friends, and brothers and sisters in the body of Christ’s Church. Though we’ve had troubles in our civil society, a brief glance at the headlines from Ethiopia remind us to thank the Lord for good government too. We have a super abundance of daily bread.

Good stewardship of daily bread means that we recognize the blessings of life that our Lord has given to us, and, as Luther says, receive it with thanksgiving. Good stewardship of daily bread means something else too though. It means that we look out at our world and we find ways of sharing our daily bread with those who lack. Maybe that is through volunteering at Feed My Starving Children, through packing welcome bags for Afghan refugees or citizens returning from incarceration. Or, maybe it is just picking up the phone and talking to someone who is lonely, who doesn’t get as much of the daily bread of human fellowship as they might get. Whatever it may mean for you, I encourage you to share the daily bread God has given you with someone in need. When we do so, we reflect the love of the God who has given so much to us.

Thanksgiving blessings to you and your loved ones.

Your Pastor,
Joshua Miller

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR
daily bread



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GOD SHOWS UP: ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2021

In the 1990 film, *Europa Europa*—the story of a Jewish teenager who masquerades at times both as a communist and Nazi to escape the Holocaust—there is a striking scene where an atheist demands that God show up. The atheist is a Marxist commissar who is berating Catholic students for believing in God. The commissar stages a mock trial and summons God to show up as a witness, telling the youths to pray to God, so that He can show up and prove He exists.

Maybe you have felt something similar, though not with the animosity with which the Marxist commissar did. Maybe you have wondered or even said, “Why doesn’t God show up?” Maybe you look at all the mess in our world today or at the troubles in your own life and you wonder, “Why doesn’t God show up?” The almighty Triune God is not some spirit who can be conjured up at the will and whims of humans. Nevertheless, God does show up; He just doesn’t show in the way that humans expect or demand. When God shows up, He does so in His own ways and in His own time.

This year for Advent and Christmas at Jehovah Lutheran, we will gather together and hear from God’s Word just how it is that He does show up. We will focus on the theme “God Shows Up” both in our Sunday celebrations of the Divine Service and our midweek gatherings on the first three Wednesdays of Advent. We will hear how it is that God shows up, and indeed we will be witnesses together of God actually showing up!

Below are the specific aspects of God’s showing up that we will hear this Advent and Christmas season. We will gather on Sunday mornings at 9:30am for Divine Service. As we transition into using the *Lutheran Service Book*, we will continue using a form of the liturgy that we have used in the past Church year through the Advent season (Setting 2). Then we will move to using another setting with which we are familiar during Christmas and Epiphany (Setting 1). In addition to these Sunday services, we will also hold two midweek Advent services during the first 3 weeks of Advent. We will hold these services of the Word on Wednesdays at 11am and 6:30pm. At the 11am service, we will use the order for Matins, and at the 6:30pm service, we will use the order for Vespers. These simple but beautiful orders are very similar to one another and enfold our hearing of God’s Word in services of prayer to our God who shows up for us.

At these services, we will hear some familiar accounts of how God showed up for His people in the Old Testament. We will also hear from the Gospel writers Luke and John about how God has shown up in the first coming of Jesus Christ for our salvation as a baby and promises to show up again in the second coming of Christ for the renewal of all creation. Moreover, we will actually experience God showing up as well, as our Lord Jesus comes to us in the present through His Word and in His blessed sacrament. I pray that our Lord will draw you to Himself during the coming month and bring you to the services of God’s house where, indeed, He does show up for you.

In Christ,

Your Pastor, Joshua Miller



“God Shows Up”

Advent Midweek, 2021 (11 am and 6:30pm)

Wednesday, December 1 – “God Shows Up with Light” (Genesis 1:1-3 and John 1:1-5)

Wednesday, December 8 – “God Shows Up on the Stairway” (Genesis 28:10-22 and John 1:35-51)

Wednesday, December 15 – “God Shows Up and Tells Us His Name” (Exodus 3:1-15 and John 8:31-59)

“God Shows Up”

Advent Sundays, 2021 (9:30am)

1st Sunday in Advent (11/28)– Watching for God to Show Up (Luke 21:25-36)

2nd Sunday in Advent (12/05) – Getting Ready for God to Show Up (Luke 3:1-20)

3rd Sunday in Advent (12/12) – What Happens when God Shows Up (Luke 7:18-35)

4th Sunday in Advent (12/19) – How God Shows Up (Luke 1:39-56)

“God Shows Up”

Christmas, 2021

Christmas Eve (Lessons and Carols at 4:30pm) – God Shows Up in a Stable (Luke 2:1-20)

Christmas Day (with Holy Communion) – God Shows Up in the Flesh (Exodus 40:1-38 and John 1:1-18)

1st Sunday after Christmas – God Shows Up for Everyone (Luke 2:22-40)

2nd Sunday after Christmas – God Shows Up the Teachers of the Law (Luke 2:40-52)



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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

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Jeremiah proclaims God's promise to raise up "a righteous Branch from David's line. Judah will be saved and Jerusalem given the name "The Lord is our righteousness".

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Paul gives thanks for the faithful congregation at Thessalonica and prays that they may grow in love and holiness as they wait for the coming of the Lord.

Luke 21:25-36

Jesus warns of signs that will precede his coming to judge, urges his disciples to "be always on the watch" and to pray for readiness to stand before he Son of Man



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

NO LIVING BY FAITH THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28.

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)
Martha Koepke (aunt of Ali Hequet)



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

Rev. Fred Bartling and family on the death of his wife, Ruth Bartling.

Those suffering or recovering from COVID-19, including Brian Fishback and Pastor Juls and Nel Clausen (pastor Clausen was the interim principal at King of Kings), 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.

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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 Mark Pelzl.

*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.



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



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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.

Jehovah is collecting socks during Advent and Christmas in the Narthex from November 28 - December 25. These are for the needy served by the New Freedom Store (returning Christians, homeless, and Afghan refugees.)



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).



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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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.

POINSETTIA SALE

It's time for the annual Altar Guild Poinsettia Fundraiser!
There will be order forms at Church or simply fill out the attached order form
along with your check for \$15.00
Place it in the offering basket or send it to the Church office. By December 19.
If you have questions, call Janet Fishback at 651-636-7046

Poinsettia Order Form

Cost is \$15.00
cash or check payable to JELC Altar Guild.
Please return this form with your order by December 19.
More details to follow on Poinsettia pick up.



Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Paid

