



LUTHER MEMORIAL CHAPEL & UNIVERSITY STUDENT CENTER CHAPEL NEWS

1916 – 2016: A Century of God's Gifts in Jesus Christ



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JUNE 2020

RETURNING TO CHURCH *BY PASTOR LARSON*

This coming Sunday, May 31st, is the Feast of Pentecost. On this day, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, God caused the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to be preached in a multitude of languages, and, “at this sound *the multitude came together*” (Acts 2:6). The congregation “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread [Lord’s Supper] and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). This is what happens every time we gather for worship!

Thanks be to God that we have enjoyed our time of “small group ministry” the last couple months, with Divine Services of less than ten souls. Starting this coming Sunday, May 31st, we will resume somewhat “normal” times of worship.

Christians believe that the Word of God preached and taught is the very source and foundation of our lives. We believe that the Lord’s body and blood is the antidote to death and the medicine of immortality. In this sacrament we receive the forgiveness of sins from the very one who has conquered death and the grave!

The elders and I recognize that there is a very wide spectrum of opinions

and thoughts on COVID-19. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we bear with one another in love.

Going forward you may expect: Sunday mornings we will have two Divine Services. The first service at 8 a.m. is encouraged for those who are aged, more cautious, or have compromised immune systems. This will be a “low mass” sort of service, a spoken liturgy, no musical accompaniment, and limited singing. It will last 30 minutes and will be very similar to the services we have been celebrating the last couple months.

The 9 a.m. Divine Service will be a return to what we are used to, for example, sung liturgy, organ, plenty of hymn-singing, etc. Every other pew will be blocked off to maintain social distancing. Family units are encouraged to sit together.

Monday evening Divine Service at 7 p.m. will be similar to the 9 a.m. Sunday morning service, but typically has fewer folks present, and therefore provides increased opportunity for social distancing.

Wednesday morning prayer (Matins)

SERVING US

Michael C. Larson, *Pastor*
Jason Lane & Brian German,
Assisting Pastors
Kathryn A. Hill, *Church Secretary*
Martha Galvin, *Director of Music*
Julie Wohlrahe, *iO Director*
Hannah Engwall, *USC Coordinator*



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at 9 a.m. is another weekly opportunity for worship, hymns, and Scripture readings. I preach a brief sermon on a portion of Luther's Small Catechism.

Other things to consider:

1. We will exclusively use paper bulletins at this time.
2. Between services, pews and altar rail will be wiped down with disinfectant.
3. If you are not comfortable touching the altar rail, please stand instead to receive the Sacrament.
4. Feel free to wear a mask during the service if you choose (not required).
5. The offering will not be collected during the service. Please place your offering in the plate at the back of the nave.
6. Only I will distribute both the Lord's body and blood in the initial weeks to limit the number of people involved.
7. We are using Port wine (as we normally have), which is 18% alcohol to kill any germs.
8. The purificator is soaked in alcohol (Everclear) to

further sanitize the chalice by wiping the edge of the cup and the bottom.

9. At the Communion rail, please leave some distance between household groups.
10. Be reminded that the Lord's body and blood is the antidote to death and the medicine of immortality. In the Sacrament we receive the forgiveness of sins from the very one who has conquered death and the grave.
11. We will forego coffee hour and Bible study until further notice.
12. Please exit in an orderly manner, hopefully into the warm spring air, to visit at safe distances!

I know some of you are fearful, but will look forward to more of you coming again to receive the treasures of salvation! Please use your best judgment and follow your Christian conscience. I am always available to provide private pastoral care throughout the week. Please do not hesitate to call for pastoral care or consolation from God's Word.

THREE FEASTS: PENTECOST, TRINITY, NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN

The Feast of Pentecost, Sunday, May 31, 8 a.m. and 9 a.m.

This day we give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the Small Catechism we pray, "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..." Without the Holy Spirit, no one could come to Christ or believe in Him. But by the preaching and inspiration of the Holy Spirit we are called to faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who alone can save. The fifty-day celebration of Easter ends with this wonderful festival.

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same

Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Feast of the Holy Trinity, Sunday, June 7, 8 a.m. and 9 a.m.

Yes! This is the day we confess that long creed – Athanasian (ath-uh-ney-zhuhn). This day we contemplate the mystery of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Gospel appointed for this feast is the Baptism of our Lord, in which we see the heavens opened, the Spirit descending in the form of a dove, and the Father speaking, "This is my beloved Son!" Three persons, one God, uncreated, infinite, eternal, and almighty! This glori-

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

<u>GOD'S CHILD</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Grace German	June 2
Michael Toll	June 3
Chris Coleman	June 6
Katerina Gurneau	June 6
Thomas Rebholz	June 6
Thomas Wegner	June 7
Luther Ledic	June 10
Nadine Visgin	June 13
Kirsten Nus	June 14
Benjamin Wieting	June 14
Donovan Sovitzky	June 15
Rhiannon Sovitzky	June 15
Richard Baka	June 16
Jessica Baka	June 18
Connor Kelm	June 19
Kathryn Clark	June 20
Jason Behr	June 21
Jeffrey Button	June 24
Nancy Lewin	June 24
Sarah Sovitzky	June 24
Adam Boldt	June 27
Mark Paterson	June 29
Kate Paterson	June 29
Tom Weber	June 30

THREE FEASTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

ous mystery of the Triune God is beyond our weak comprehension, but we joyfully confess our faith and give glory to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit! Through Baptism we are called to participate in the love of the Holy Trinity.

Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

Divine Service for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, Wednesday, June 24, 9 a.m., in the "Small Chapel."

We celebrate the birth of the forerunner of our Lord Jesus. He leapt in the womb of his mother Elizabeth at the presence of Jesus (in the womb of mother Mary). He preached repentance and a baptismal washing. He pointed toward Jesus and preached, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). His whole life and teaching and martyrdom bear witness to our Lord. He is the example that all preachers of the Gospel must follow, pointing only to Jesus, resolving to know nothing but Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor. 2:2). His life is an example to every Christian to boldly confess Christ, suffer the world's scorn, and confidently await the Lord's deliverance, trusting in the words of Jesus, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Almighty God, through John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, You once proclaimed salvation. Now grant that we may know this salvation and serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life; through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FOR YOUR HOME DEVOTIONS IN JUNE

Date	Name of Day	Hymn of the Day	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
May 31	Day of Pentecost	LSB 497	Gen. 11:1-9	Psalm 68	Acts 2:1-21	John 14:23-31
June 7	The Holy Trinity	LSB 498	Is. 6:1-7	Psalm 8	Rom. 11:33-36	John 3:1-17
June 14	First Sunday after Trinity	LSB 768	Gen. 15:1-6	Psalm 13	1 John 4:16-21	Luke 16:19-31
June 21	Second Sunday after Trinity	LSB 510	Prov. 9:1-10	Psalm 18	Eph. 2:13-22 or 1 John 3:13-18	Luke 14:15-24
June 28	Third Sunday after Trinity	LSB 608	Micah 7:18-20	Psalm 9	1 Tim. 1:12-17 or 1 Peter 5:6-11	Luke 15:1-10 or Luke 15:11-32

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH AT LMC

WAITING ON THE LORD

BY JULIE WOHLRABE, IO DIRECTOR



Greetings to you members of Luther Memorial Chapel (LMC) and my home church, Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church (OSELC), along with all those reading this!

Well, this is different. Usually I have several ideas for what I want to write about in my iO article, and oftentimes, it kind of feels like it writes itself, as if the words are jumping onto my computer screen. Not this time. Nope. This time is different for me.

I am sure things are different for you, too, in some way or another, whether in big ways or small ways. Maybe you are working from home and learning new ways to connect online; maybe you lost your job and are learning how to navigate unemployment along with 36 million other people; maybe you have come to appreciate hand sanitizer more than you ever thought you would. Whatever it might be, things are different.

It is different for iO too, and honestly, I have been more than frustrated. So, I have additionally appreciated and needed the wonderful sermons with timely messages on YouTube that both Pastor Henrichs and Pastor Larson have preached. I have very much appreciated and needed the weekly ten-person Communion services that I have been fed and nurtured with. I have thoroughly appreciated and needed the various devotions and prayer times offered by other Missouri Synod Lutheran pastors on Facebook and elsewhere. I have been warmly and thoughtfully encouraged by family and friends, and I found the letter from LMC congregation president Joe Bratz to be vulnerable, empathetic and wonderfully “spot-on.” He mentioned the recent, regular use of the words “essential” and “non-essential,” and pointed out three important things: (1) God’s Word is essential; (2) prayer is essential; (3) the Sacraments are essential. Thank you for your letter, Joe! By the way, if you have not

read it, please contact me and I will send it to you.

There are so many people and situations that need our prayers these days. So many, and yet, as the iO Director, I am asking YOU to please pray for our mission as well. I am incredibly grateful to God that He knows what is ahead for International Outreach, for the people He wants us to share His love and message with, and that through this whole ordeal, we have the opportunity to trust HIM as we continue to walk forward into unknown territory. Thanks be to God that not only is “the glory of the Lord your rear guard” (Is. 58:8) but also, “It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed” (Deut. 31:8). May we be faithful to You, our Holy Triune God!

What you have just read was written during the early afternoon on May 21st, the Ascension of Our Lord. What you will read next was just written in the later evening, also on May 21st. Last Sunday I received an intriguing inquiry from a friend about something which I have been working on throughout this week. This evening, the amazing grace of our Holy God has allowed me and others I have never met to connect and be part of something wonderfully special that our Lord has woven together in advance! I am in awe; I am invigorated; I am humbled; and I am blessed to be a part of this and to watch it unfold. It is my prayer that I will be able to share this with you in my next iO newsletter article. Even though you do not know what this situation is, please, everyone who is reading this, please join us and pray for God’s will to be accomplished in this developing situation. All glory be to God!!!

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

EXCERPTS FROM THE LARGE CATECHISM BY MARTIN LUTHER

THE CLOSE OF THE COMMANDMENTS

See page 322, *Lutheran Service Book*.

Thus we have the Ten Commandments, a compendium of divine doctrine, as to what we are to do in order that our whole life may be pleasing to God, and the true fountain and channel from and in which everything must arise and flow that is to be a good work, so that outside of the Ten Commandments no work or thing can be good or pleasing to God, however great or precious it be in the eyes of the world.

I am of opinion indeed, that here one will find his hands full, [and will have enough] to do to observe these, namely, meekness, patience, and love towards enemies, chastity, kindness, etc., and what such virtues imply. But such works are not of value and make no display in the eyes of the world; for they are not peculiar and conceited works and restricted to particular times, places, rites, and customs, but are common, everyday domestic works which one neighbor can practice toward another; therefore they are not of high esteem.

In conclusion, however, we must repeat the text which belongs here, of which we have treated already in the First Commandment, in order that we may learn what pains God requires to the end we may learn to inculcate and practice the Ten Commandments: *For I the Lord, thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me, and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me and keep My commandments.*

Now, there is comprehended in these words (as said before) both an angry word of threatening and a friendly promise to terrify and warn us, and, moreover, to induce and encourage us to receive and highly esteem His Word as a matter of divine earnestness, because He Himself declares how

much He is concerned about it, and how rigidly He will enforce it, namely, that He will horribly and terribly punish all who despise and transgress His commandments; and again, how richly He will reward, bless, and do all good to those who hold them in high esteem, and gladly do and live according to them. Thus He demands that all our works proceed from a heart which fears and regards God alone, and from such fear avoids everything that is contrary to His will, lest it should move Him to wrath; and, on the other hand, also trusts in Him alone, and from love to Him does all He wishes, because he speaks to us as friendly as a father, and offers us all grace and every good.

Just this is also the meaning and true interpretation of the first and chief commandment, from which all the others must flow and proceed, so that this word: Thou shalt have no other gods before Me, in its simplest meaning states nothing else than this demand: Thou shalt fear, love, and trust in Me as thine only true God. For where there is a heart thus disposed towards God, the same has fulfilled this and all the other commandments. On the other hand, whoever fears and loves anything else in heaven and upon earth will keep neither this nor any. Thus the entire scriptures have everywhere preached and inculcated this commandment, aiming always at these two things: fear of God and trust in Him. And especially the prophet David throughout the Psalms, as when he says [Ps. 147, 11]: *The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His mercy.* As if the entire commandment were explained by one verse, as much as to say: The Lord taketh pleasure in those who have no other gods.



HELP IN ANXIETY



Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42

Helpful Scriptures

It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;
for he gives to his beloved sleep. Psalm 127:2

Call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.
Psalm 50:15

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let
your requests be made known to God. And the peace
of God, which surpasses all understanding, will
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your
life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor
about your body, what you will put on. Is not life

more than food, and the body more than clothing? ...
But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteous-
ness, and all these things will be added to you.
Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for
tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the
day is its own trouble." Matthew 6:25, 33-34

For the anxious, the Church prays:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you feed the
birds and clothe the flowers, and you care for us as a
father for his children. Guard our hearts against
faithlessness and anxiety. By your Holy Spirit, help
us to live to the hallowing of your name, the coming
of your kingdom, and the doing of your will, so that
we may cast all our cares on you and in unwavering
faith, trust in you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

Poem: Do Not Be Anxious

About your meat and drink do not be anxious
Or worry about what you are to wear
But let your anxious thoughts become petitions
To Him who loves to hear and answer prayer.

To birds who neither sow nor reap nor gather
Your Father gives keen eyes to find good seed;
Seek first His kingdom and you will discover
That daily God supplies your every need.

The lilies' fleeting life God clothes with splendor
More glorious than Solomon's array;
The robe of righteousness that Jesus gives you
Shines brighter and will never fade away.

The sweet birds sing God's praise until they perish;
The wind blows, and the lilies wave their praise;
Now let the tongues of you who are His children
Give grateful praise to God throughout your days.

Poem reprinted from The Song of Daniel and Selected Poems © 2015 Kathryn Ann Hill.

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